Hafa Adai!

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2 jobless workers allegedly resort to car burglary. PAGE 2

Fund mulls sale of its housing loan assets. PAGE 4

Miura throws in the towel

Withdraws petition in federal court, vows to continue fight in L.A.

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you register to vote in the upcoming CNMI delegate election?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

$700B Plan

Sold to American taxpayers for up to $700 billion: an unprecedented plan to buy distressed banks' least desirable mortgage assets.

BUSINESS...Page 13

DUI Arrest

Heather Locklear was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of a controlled substance in the upscale Santa Barbara area, authorities said Sunday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Fiscal year ends with no budget

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WHAT'S NEXT

Budget plan to be introduced in Wednesday's session

The CNMI government enters a new fiscal year tomorrow without a budget to keep its spending in line with the diminished resources.

Both the Senate and House of Representatives have agreed with the administration's revenue projection, amounting to $156.7 million, for fiscal year 2009. However, legislation that details how this money should be spent is far from being approved.

Hocog

Because no budget has been passed, the government will automatically go on "continuing resolution." This means it will continue to go by the last enacted

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> *California is now free to come and escort him.*
>
> —Bruce Berline

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Miura

After fighting his extradition to California for more than seven months, Kazuyoshi Miura threw in the towel yesterday, vowing to continue his fight in Los Angeles.

See MIURA on Page 4

ABSENTEE VOTING

ON THE NET

Federal Voting Assistance Program website: www.fvap.gov

U.S. citizens who used to live and vote in the U.S. mainland but are now residing abroad, including in the Northern Mariana Islands, may still vote via the absentee voting process. Here's how:

Who may vote

Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee

See ABSENTEE on Page 4

THEN AND NOW JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A tourist looks at the exhibits and artifacts inside the American Memorial Park's World War II Historic Museum in Garapan.

2 jobless workers allegedly resort to car burglary

Two jobless alien workers allegedly burglarized two parked cars in Chalan Kanoa and stole battery and airbags from the vehicles Friday early morning.

Xi Wen Li, 35, was arrested for burglary and criminal mischief, while Ying Xiang Cao, 42, was apprehended for burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

A $10,000 cash bail each was initially imposed on the defendants. A bail hearing was set yesterday morning in the Superior Court.

Detective Abraham C. Villagomez stated in his report that a caller reported to the Department of Public Safety on Friday at 2:04am about a burglary and theft incident at the former Joeten Shopping Center in Chalan Kanoa.

Villagomez said when two police officers responded to the scene they observed two Chinese men, later identified as Li and Cao, inside a white station wagon parked directly near the former Joeten Shopping Center.

The officers later learned from the caller that he saw the two men breaking into a car that was parked in front of Sun Signs, which is located near the former Joeten.

One officer observed two damaged cars in front of Sun Signs.

The gray car had a shattered rear passenger side window and its hood was slightly open. The air bag was missing.

The blue car had a shattered rear passenger side window and its hood was slightly open. Nothing was missing from its interior.

A friend of the owner of the gray car was called to the scene. The friend identified the vehicle battery and airbags inside the suspects' station wagon as belonging to the gray car.

Police said Li and Cao admitted breaking into the two vehicles and stealing airbags and battery from the gray car.

The suspects allegedly admitted selling the vehicle battery and airbags to an auto shop to make money because they are jobless. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Famed photojournalist here for Miura coverage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japan's famous photojournalist Shigeki Miyajima is on island, covering the extradition case against Kazuyoshi Miura.

Some Japanese journalists were seen posing for a picture with Miyajima when they noticed the photographer outside the office of one of Miura's lawyers, Bruce Berline, Friday afternoon.

"Miyazima is very famous in Japan. Almost all photographers know him," one Japanese reporter told *Saipan Tribune*.

Miyazima is from the Tokyo-based popular weekly current affairs magazine *Shukan Bunshun* of the Bungei Shunju Ltd.

Another Japanese reporter said *Shukan Bunshun* is Miura's worst enemy and that he had sued the magazine a couple of times.

It was *Shukan Bunshun* that broke the story in January 1984 about Miura being allegedly involved in a plot to murder his wife, according to Los Angeles Police Department detective Rick Jackson in his affidavit.

Jackson said the release of the article prompted the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department to become actively involved in the investigation, along with the LAPD.

In Japan, Miyajima twice won the magazine journalism grand prize and he holds exhibits of his work about once every four years.

He first published his photograph collection when he was 30 years old. Almost every year he puts up a photograph collection exhibit.

Miyajima arrived on Saipan last Sept. 22. He expressed hope that his company would send him to California to continue the coverage of Miura.

The photojournalist said this was his first time on Saipan and that he finds it beautiful and safe. He said they forgot to lock their car near the federal court yesterday morning and when they returned, all their belongings inside were still intact.

"I prefer the Okinawa beaches, but the hospitality of the people here is better," the gray-haired lensman said.

Miyazima started his career as a photojournalist in another weekly magazine in 1983.

Miyajima said that in 1981, the time when Miura's wife was killed in L.A., Miura was a hero in Japan.

"He [Miura] hates our magazine," the photographer said, because they ran a lot of stories and photographs of Miura.

Saipan Tribune noticed that Miyajima's camera zoom lens has a list of names of many countries, including Baghdad, Lebanon, Pakistan, Phuket, Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Jakarta, and Afghanistan.

He said he went to cover major events in those countries. He has actually had gone to many other countries, but he just put the names of those where his coverage were memorable.

"When I come back to Japan, I may include Saipan [on the list]," he said, smiling.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Shigeki Miyajima of the Shukan Bunshun weekly magazine holds his camera's zoom lens as he poses for Saipan Tribune at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan yesterday.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

MARIANA TRENCH monument
The deepest, darkest place on earth

for the Week of September 29, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm
Concept Overview	Concept Overview	Economic Study

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.
We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
This schedule will rotate weekly. A science presentation is under construction.
Schedules will be noticed weekly on Tuesdays.
Private presentations are available upon request – call for appointment!
For more information, call 234-2665.

Eased rules sought for hiring foreign doctors

A lawmaker has penned legislation that would ease the rules for foreign doctors practicing in the Commonwealth.

The bill, as pre-filed by Rep. Justo Quitugua, proposes to amend a 2007 law that has precluded certain foreign doctors, including some working at the Commonwealth Health Center, from working in the Northern Marianas.

The proposed legislation would allow for a limited license for these doctors and thereby allow them to stay in the Commonwealth.

"The reason for this is that the CNMI cannot afford to recruit physicians from the U.S. or Canada alone. The CNMI is competing with the rest of the world to recruit physicians and the U.S. itself recruits from such countries as India, Sri Lanka, China, Philippines, and Australia," Quitugua says in his bill.

"This amendment will permit foreign physicians to practice in the CNMI under the supervision of a CNMI licensed U.S. medical graduate. It will also provide the Department of Public Health with the opportunity to negotiate fair compensation packages for these foreign physicians given the CNMI's limited resources," he adds.

The bill is expected to be introduced on the House floor on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008. It will become law once passed by both houses of the Legislature, and signed by the governor. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Newborn Hearing Screening
Did you know that …
Every baby born in the CNMI receives a hearing screening before leaving the hospital?
Ask if your baby passed the test. Babies learn to talk from what they hear… if your baby needs follow up, schedule your appointment right way.
Follow-up testing is FREE!
Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Municipality of Saipan
Afetna Square, San Antonio

Public Service Announcement

Honorable Juan B. Tudela, Mayor of Saipan, wish to announce the availability of funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill.

This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to pay their power bill with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

Application can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office at Afetnas Square in San Antonioo during regular working days.

For more information call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 235-7304 or 234-6208.

Rota council members get more power

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill setting guidelines for the designation of an acting mayor and acting chairperson of the municipal council for Rota.

The Rota bill became a local law after the governor approved it on Friday, Sept. 26, 2008.

Previously, the Rota mayor has the power to appoint whomever he chooses to serve as acting mayor when the mayor is to be away from the island.

However, the Rota lawmakers maintain it is more appropriate that the position be filled by a member of the municipal council because they are also elected officials of the municipality. They add that it is appropriate to establish the acting chairmanship of the municipal council.

Under the new legislation, the chairperson of the Rota Municipal Council should serve as acting mayor whenever the Rota mayor is off island. If the chairperson is also away, vice chairperson will assume office. If both the chairperson and vice chairperson are absent, the remaining council member will be the acting mayor. If all council members are away, the mayor will appoint an acting mayor to carry out the duties of his office until the mayor or any member of the municipal council returns.

The same guidelines will apply to the designation of an acting chairperson of the Rota Municipal Council. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses with disability advocates, educators and clients after the signing of the Disability Awareness Month proclamation yesterday. The theme for the 2008 National Disability Employment Awareness Month is "America's People…America's Talent…America's Strength!"

October proclaimed as Disability Employment Awareness Month

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe a proclamation declaring October as Disability Employment Awareness Month, in line with the national observation of the event.

Each year the Commonwealth celebrates the month of October to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of persons with disabilities.

"We do this to highlight the strong contributions that people with disabilities make toward the advancement of our local economy. We also take this opportunity to help ensure that people with disabilities are accorded equal employment opportunities under the law. This month, some employers will also be recognized for their unwavering passion in opening their doors to provide job opportunities to individuals with disabilities entering the workforce," according to the proclamation document.

The theme for the 2008 National Disability Employment Awareness Month is "America's People…America's Talent…America's Strength!"

"I pledge to the CNMI community that this administration will continue to keep open doors of opportunities for people with disabilities by collaborative and united efforts with the State Rehabilitative Council and by supporting the activities of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in their (1) service delivery, (2) advocacy, and (3) continued partnership with the Workforce Investment Board and other stakeholders. We also seek to facilitate the smooth transition of students with disabilities to have positive employment outcomes through immersion in needed training," said Fitial in his proclamation.

He called upon the community to observe this month and recognize the contributions, gifts and talents of people with disabilities, as well as the generosity and accommodating minds and hearts of employers who continue to welcome people with disabilities into their workplaces. ***(PR)***

Security firm sued for age, sex bias

HONOLULU—The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said Friday that it has filed a discrimination lawsuit against Safeguard Services Inc. for allegedly violating federal law at its Pacific Guardian Center location by subjecting female security officers to harassment based on their age and sex

According to the EEOC, a supervisor repeatedly subjected the female security officers to harassing comments such as "deaf old lady," "grandma," and "females aren't worth s--t." Upon finding out about the harassment, the company allegedly took no steps to prevent or correct it. The alleged conduct violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

"We filed this lawsuit because Security Services failed to provide the security of a discrimination-free workplace for older female employees," said EEOC regional lawyer Anna Park of the agency's Los Angeles District, which includes Hawaii. "These women faced a double dose of discrimination based on their age and sex—and the company did nothing to stop it."

The EEOC filed the suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii after first attempting to reach a voluntary settlement out of court. The EEOC seeks back wages, compensatory and punitive damages as well as injunctive relief remedies to ensure equal employment opportunity in the workplace.

EEOC Honolulu Local Office Director Timothy Riera said, "Employers must be mindful of their responsibility to prevent hostile work environments by providing effective training for supervisory staff, as well as putting other measures in place to address and correct discrimination when it occurs."

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the EEOC is available on its web site at www.eeoc.gov. ***(EEOC)***

U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Safeguard Services, Inc., U.S. District Court Case No. CV-08-00429

BIG SUCCESSES START OUT WITH SMALL MOVES.
FREE BUSINESS CHECKING*
• No Minimum Balance Requirement
• No Monthly Service Charge
• Includes a Continental Airlines OnePass® Business CheckCard with the first year's annual fee waived and 2,500 bonus OnePass Miles**
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We say Yes
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Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau
Tel: (670) 234-6558 Fax: (670) 236-6558
*Minimum deposit to open an account is $100. Account allows for 25 free items (for each check written, deposit ticket processed, or check deposited) per statement period. Excess item fee of $0.50 per item over 25. Miscellaneous fees and service charges do apply.
**Apply by October 31, 2008 and receive 2,500 bonus OnePass Miles per card upon first purchase. Please allow 30-45 days to receive bonus Miles. The $25 per card Annual Membership Fee on the Continental Airlines OnePass Business CheckCard will be waived for one year. Offer open to Guam and CNMI residents only. All OnePass® program rules and conditions apply, including Continental's right to terminate or modify the OnePass program. A non-rewards, no annual fee BusinessCard CheckCard is also available.
*Offer applies to new FHB Business Online customers who are Sole Proprietors opening a new business checking account by October 31, 2008. Does not apply to Online Payment service or access through Quicken®, QuickBooks®, or Microsoft® Money. Monthly fee after promotion is $9.99.
**Offer applies to new Web Cash Manager Basic Service customers only. New customers must sign up by October 31, 2008 in order to receive the special promotional offer of 6 months free.

ABSENTEE

From Page 1

in any election for federal office. This includes primary, run-off, and special elections that occur throughout the year, as well as the general election in November 2008. Some states allow overseas voters to vote in elections for state and local offices, and for state and local referendums.

Voting eligibility and residency requirements are determined by the various U.S. states, and are available on-line at http://fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html.

To register as absentee voters, U.S. citizens abroad must know their home state.

Your "legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the state where you last resided immediately prior to departure from the United States. Voting rights extend to overseas citizens even though they may no longer own property or have other ties to their last state of residence, and even if their intent to return to that state may be uncertain. For those who have never resided in the U.S., sixteen states, to date, allow eligible U.S. citizens to register where a parent would be eligible to vote.

To register to vote and/or apply for an absentee ballot, you can use the Federal Post Card Application. The online version, the OFPCA, is accepted by all states and territories except American Samoa and Guam.

Voters from American Samoa and Guam must use the standard form of the FPCA, available at the Consulate General or through many American civic groups. The online OFPCA form must be completed legibly, printed, signed, dated, and mailed to your local election officials. Your state may allow faxing to speed the process, but you will still need to send in the original by mail. Use an envelope and affix proper postage.

The official U.S. Government website for overseas absentee voting assistance, http://www.fvap.gov, has a wealth of information about absentee voting, including the state-specific instructions for completing the FPCA form, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot for use by those who register in time but fail to receive an official ballot.

As a general rule, you should try to send in the FPCA so that it reaches your local election officials at least 45 days before the first election in which you are eligible to vote—ample time for them to process the request and send you a blank ballot. If applying for both registration and an absentee ballot, you may want to mail the FPCA earlier. One FPCA will qualify you to receive all ballots for Federal offices for the next two regular Federal elections (through 2010). However, we recommend that you submit a new FPCA in January of every year, and whenever you move, to ensure that your most recent mailing and e-mail addresses are on file with your local election officials.

They must vote on time.

Under normal circumstances, most states and territories begin sending ballots to overseas citizens 30-45 days before an election. However, if you haven't received your ballot within three weeks of your state's ballot receipt deadline, and you are required to return your voted ballot by mail, you should download, complete, sign, date, and send in a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, available at http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefwab.html. *Make sure it is witnessed if required by your state*. If you subsequently receive your regular absentee ballot, execute it and return it regardless of when you receive it. Court decisions sometimes require late counting of ballots voted by Election Day, but received by local election officials for a specified period of time following Election Day.

Even 45 days can be a tight squeeze to send/receive all of the necessary materials and it leaves very little time for error. Thus, it is critical to register and send ballots off in a *timely manner*.

The Overseas Voter Foundation provides information on the 2008 registration and ballot request deadlines.

Deadlines vary

The State-Specific Voter Information Directory (https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/state-voter-information-directory) provides deadlines by state and voter type. Just click the option on the left menu listing and you can access the state-by-state deadline lists for the 2008 elections.

Differences are found between deadlines for new registrations versus "ballot requests" for already registered voters. If you someone is already a registered voter in their state and only need to request a ballot, their deadline may be extended. The same exact form can be used for these different functions.

Uniformed service members, their families and dependents may also have extended deadlines.

We encourage all voters, regardless of type or registration status to send forms in as early as possible before the election. Even 45 days is tight for your election official time to process your request and send your ballot, then for you to receive it, vote and mail it back. It also doesn't leave time for any error to be corrected.

Sometimes you will see that a state allows registration up to the day of the election. That is very nice for local voters, but it is erroneous for you as an overseas absentee voter. You have to realistically consider the time it takes for the transit of registration forms, blank ballots, completed ballots, etc.

Don't forget the processing time. Do the best you can to send in your registration/ballot request form early!

They must provide one of the following forms of ID

- Social Security Number
- Valid in-state Drivers License number
- Valid Passport number
- Military ID number

Ways to register as an absentee voter:

1. **Overseas Vote Foundation:**
https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/

This a nonpartisan organization that provides voter registration, ballot request and help desk services for U.S. Overseas Citizens and Uniformed Services Members and Families. Here Americans abroad can register to vote and apply for a ballot easily, avoiding a process that would take weeks otherwise.

They must provide one of the following forms of ID:

- Social Security Number
- Valid in-state Drivers License number
- Valid Passport number
- Military ID number

The OVF registration system prompts the user for all of the information required for their particular state.

- Download the form.
- Be sure to follow the instructions in the letter attached to the end of the ballot request form.
- They must remember to *sign and send their form* to their election official who needs the original signature on file.
- The correct address will be provided on the letter attached to the form.
- It is advisable to follow up with local election officials after sending the registration/ballot request form.

The OVF website provides many services useful services. Including:

- **My Voter Account™** - a service which makes it possible to keep an up-to-date voter profile on hand, maintain a mailing list profile, generate a new ballot request form or a write in ballot with the click of a button
- **Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot wizard** - the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot finally made easy! This is a blank ballot for registered voters to use in the event that the ballot arrives late.
- **OVF Voter Help Desk™** - fast and friendly answers to voting questions
- **OVF Election Official Directory™** - the most comprehensive listing of election office contact information available.
- **OVF State-specific Voter Information Directory™** - state-by-state information bank providing details on deadlines, voter materials transmission options and state contact information
- **Links to nonpartisan candidate information sites**
- **OVF news** - check the latest stories on overseas and military voting

2. Youth Vote Overseas: https://yvo.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm

3. Military Voter Services: https://military.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm

4. **FedEx Express**
https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/ExpressYourVote.htm

Working with the OVF, FedEx offers an alternative to regular postal services when posting ballots from abroad.

This is a new program that provides express delivery of absentee ballots between September 15th and October 29th 2008. FedEx will pick up ballots in 89 countries and return them within one to five days for discounted fees of up to $23.50. This service is free in Australia, New Zealand and12 Asian countries, includes tracking capabilities and confirmation of receipt.

5. **Federal Voting Assistance Program**
http://www.fvap.gov/

The Basic Absentee Voting Process

Step 1: Citizen completes and mails the Federal Post Card Application Form (SF-76), Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form.

Step 2: Local Election Official approves Registration request or requests further information

Step 3: Local Election Official mails absentee ballot*

Step 4: Citizen votes and mails the absentee ballot to the Local Election Official in time to meet state deadlines.

* In order to receive an absentee ballot in a timely manner, it is imperative for citizens to keep their local election official informed of address changes.

This website includes state by state instructions.

6. **Embassies**

US citizens can register at their local Embassy or consulate – consulates can help with the registration process.

State Department Information:
http://travel.state.gov/law/info/info_2964.html

Be an Educated Voter

Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues is widely available and easy to obtain via the Internet. Use the links appearing on the FVAP website at http://www.fvap.gov/links/otherlinks.html, read your hometown newspaper on-line, or search the Internet to locate articles and information.

The Voting Assistance Officers at U.S. Embassies and Consulates overseas are available to answer questions about absentee voting.

Source: 2008 Absentee Voting Information for Americans Abroad

FISCAL

From Page 1

budget, which appropriated $163 million in government funds.

The House Ways and Means Committee is still in the process of drafting the appropriation bill. Rep. Victor Hocog, chairman of the committee, said the bill is expected to be introduced on the House floor on Wednesday.

According to Hocog, the committee is looking at a bill that appropriates $117 million for payroll and $39 million for all other operational costs.

Under the spending plan being considered by the committee, the Public School System will receive a budget of $38 million, Northern Marianas College $6.2 million, the Legislature $6.5 million, and the Judiciary $4.1 million.

Government contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund will remain at 11 percent of the payroll for active employees. An additional 1 percent will be paid to provide for retiring employees who have been affected by the pension agency's decision to freeze all new retirement applications, Hocog said.

The Rota lawmaker also said the budget will contain no austerity provisions that have direct impact on the employees' income. There will be no comeback for the so-called "austerity Fridays" and "unpaid holidays," he said.

"I am confident that not too long from today, we'll see some additional resources," Hocog said, citing the potential recovery of more "cover over" taxes from the federal government. The U.S. Department of Treasury has already paid over $30 million of the federal taxes, which the U.S. government had previously failed to transfer—or "cover over"—to the local government.

Hocog said the U.S. Treasury is expected to make another disbursement of $6 million to $10 million in December 2008.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be free to determine how the rest of the funds will be distributed to the departments within the Executive Branch, as well as the independent programs.

MIURA

From Page 1

"California is now free to come and escort him," Bruce Berline, one of Miura's lawyers, told the mostly Japanese media during what he described as their farewell press conference.

Shortly before the news briefing, Berline told the U.S. District Court for the NMI that they want to withdraw Miura's petition for writ of habeas corpus. Assistant Attorney General Jeffery Warfield Sr. did not object to the request.

Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the motion and lifted his order for a stay of Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's extradition order.

Munson remanded the 61-year-old Miura back to the custody of the U.S. Marshal so the Japanese businessman could be delivered back to CNMI authorities.

The hearing, which was attended by many members of the Japanese media, lasted less than two minutes.

Miura was wearing a maroon shirt and a pair of maroon pants. He was smiling as he shook hands with his lawyers, Berline and Mark Hanson. His third counsel, William Fitzgerald, was not in court.

"Our case is now officially over in Saipan, CNMI with the dismissal of the habeas corpus," Berline said.

On Saturday, Los Angeles County Superior Court judge Steven Sicklen ruled that Miura cannot be tried for murder in the 1981 shooting of his wife. He told prosecutors, though, that they can continue with the charge of conspiracy to commit murder.

Berline said he met with Miura yesterday morning and explained to him the court ruling in California. Berline said he explained what Miura's options are in going forward with his extradition case on Saipan.

The lawyer said Miura told him that it was time for him to go to California where he will continue his legal fight.

"And I agree with that," Berline said, adding that they certainly could have continued the fight in the CNMI but, given Van Sicklen's opinion, "it is time to take the fight to California."

The lawyer said it was their client who decided it is time for him to go to California.

"I think that he just understands that his time is best spent in California now," Berline added.

Warfield told *Saipan Tribune* after yesterday's hearing that it's not over until Miura is actually on a plane and is on his way to California.

With the dismissal of the petition for habeas corpus, however, Warfield said there are no more impediments to Miura being extradited.

"The governor's warrant has been upheld. They withdrew their petition for writ and emergency stay. So as soon as California authorities can work it out, he [Miura] will be transported," the government lawyer said.

On the sudden withdrawal of Miura's petition, Warfield said this did not surprise him given what happened in L.A. over the weekend.

"It pretty much took the arguments that they were making last week before our Supreme Court. The California court upheld the conspiracy charge so it is clear that he has been substantially charge, which we believe is already clear," he said.

The prosecutor said he will immediately call the L.A. District Attorney's Office about the dismissal of the petition, and that LADA in turn will notify the Los Angeles Police Department.

Warfield said he has no information as to when the LAPD detectives will return to Saipan to pick up Miura because it was a Sunday yesterday in California.

Miura was arrested at the airport on Saipan last Feb. 22 over the killing of his wife in L.A. in 1981. Since then he has been fighting his extradition to California. After losing in the CNMI Superior and Supreme courts, he brought the legal fight last Friday to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Fund mulls sale of its housing loan assets

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund is looking at selling its housing loan assets in a bid to streamline its portfolio.

Juan T. Guerrero, chairman of the Fund board of trustees, said the pension agency will soon issue a request for proposals from government agencies and any other financial institutions that may be interested in buying the frozen Member Home Loan Mortgage Program.

BankPacific previously bought a portion of the home loan portfolio. The remainder is currently valued at about $6.4 million, with 118 borrowers. It will be offered not only to banks, but also to public agencies such as the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and Marianas Public Land Trust.

According to Guerrero, the Retirement Fund historically has experienced a good return on the housing loans. However, the Fund is recently seeing some borrowers go delinquent, and it wants to take the proactive approach of selling the portfolio.

"Compared with other government-run housing loan programs, we have the best in terms of profitability. The loans are tied with the pension of the retirees and even active members, so we have recourse [if they miss on payments]," Guerrero said.

"But the home loan program is such as small part of our portfolio," he added. "We're selling it so we can streamline our investments."

According to the Retirement Fund's handbook, the home loan mortgage program was created to assist eligible Fund members acquire a principal home, improve an existing home, refinance mortgages, and purchase leasehold property in fee simple.

Those eligible for the housing loan include government retirees, civil service employees who have been contributing to the Fund for at least three years, and contractual employees must have had at least 15 years of government service and at least 5 years of contributing membership to the Fund.

The minimum loan amount is $15,000 and the maximum is $150,000, at an interest rate of 9.5 percent. The maximum loan term is 30 years.

Three-hour power outage today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Division has scheduled a three-hour emergency power outage today, Sept. 30, to repair a power pole.

"The purpose of the outage is to ensure safety for the line crew and the public as they replace a damaged power pole that was struck and destroyed by a vehicle early Saturday morning," said CUC in a statement.

The outage is scheduled to start at 3pm and is expected to last through 6pm. The feeder affected is Kiya 2, which covers the areas of As Lito, portions of Fina Sisu, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio, Afetnas, Chalan Piao and portions of Chalan Kanoa.

"The CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this emergency outage schedule has imposed on the community and will work diligently to minimize the interruption," said the utility agency. ***(CUC)***

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Division has scheduled a three-hour emergency power outage today, Sept. 30, to replace this damaged power pole that was struck and destroyed by a vehicle early Saturday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

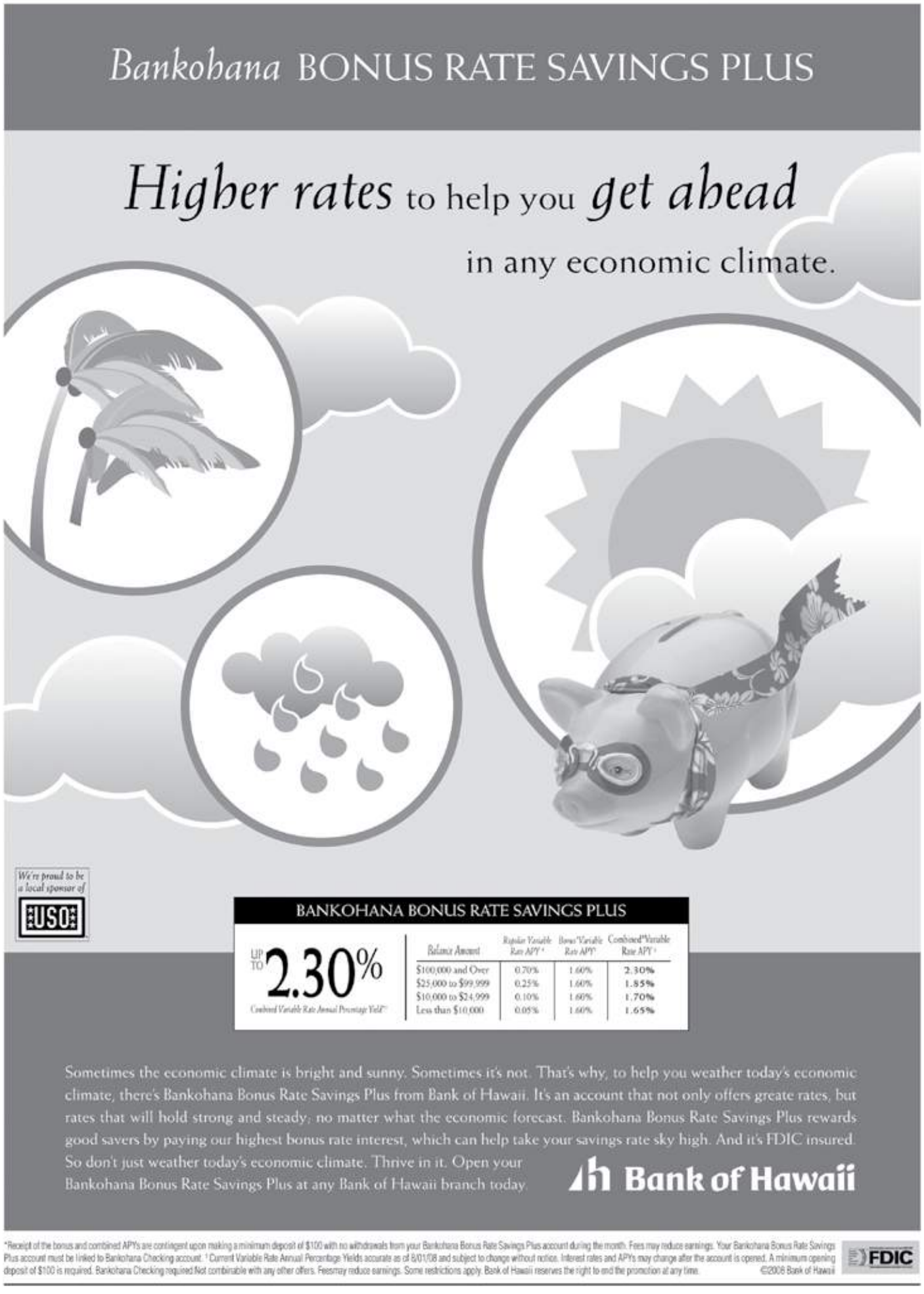
The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. TMS-2008-X-074 submitted by Marianas Resort Development Company, Inc. through its authorized representative William S. Hofschneider, Consulting Engineer for the Matua Bay Resort & Golf Course Project. The project will be constructed in 2 phases which include: Phase I: 18-hole golf course, practice range, maintenance facilities, nursery, irrigation wells, piping and storage ponds, water supply wells & piping networks, reverse osmosis plant, wastewater treatment plant, stormwater retention ponds, back-up power generation facilities, re-alignment of 8th Avenue, public shoreline access; Phase II: Hotel and amenities, casino, parking stalls, plaza and water feature, chapel, tennis courts, pool and staff housing.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 01, 2008 at 6:30 pm, at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and make oral comments regarding this application. The Matua Bay Resort project file is open for review 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday – Thursday at the CRM office. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM Office located on the 2nd floor of the Morgen Building in Oleai, mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, or faxed to 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this public hearing.

JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director
Coastal Resources Management Office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Combined Variable Rate Annual Percentage Yield*
Balance Amount | Regular Variable Rate APY† | Bonus Variable Rate APY* | Combined* Variable Rate APY†
$100,000 and Over | 0.70% | 1.60% | 2.30%
$25,000 to $99,999 | 0.25% | 1.60% | 1.85%
$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.10% | 1.60% | 1.70%
Less than $10,000 | 0.05% | 1.60% | 1.65%
Sometimes the economic climate is bright and sunny. Sometimes it's not. That's why, to help you weather today's economic climate, there's Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus from Bank of Hawaii. It's an account that not only offers greate rates, but rates that will hold strong and steady, no matter what the economic forecast. Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus rewards good savers by paying our highest bonus rate interest, which can help take your savings rate sky high. And it's FDIC insured.
So don't just weather today's economic climate. Thrive in it. Open your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus at any Bank of Hawaii branch today.
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*Receipt of the bonus and combined APYs are contingent upon making a minimum deposit of $100 with no withdrawals from your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account during the month. Fees may reduce earnings. Your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account must be linked to Bankohana Checking account. † Current Variable Rate Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 8/01/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. A minimum opening deposit of $100 is required. Bankohana Checking required Not combinable with any other offers. Feesmay reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply. Bank of Hawaii reserves the right to end the promotion at any time.
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FDIC

Japanese arrivals to Hawaii post another double-digit fall in Aug.

Editor's Note: This story was originally published by The Moodie Report *on Sept. 28, 2008. It is being reprinted here with permission.*

HAWAII—Total air visitor expenditures were down -17.6 percent or US$206.9 million in August, according to new figures from the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

The August slump was caused by lower daily spending (-3.1 percent to US$174 per person) and a -17.3 percent decline in arrivals by air to 606,342 visitors.

The key statistics from a travel retail perspective were those related to the Japanese market. Japanese arrivals decreased by -13.9 percent to 121,336 in the month, following a -11.7 percent decline in July.

For the year-to-date (January-August) Japanese visitor numbers have fallen by -7.9 percent. And they are not coming off a strong 2007 – in that year Japanese arrivals fell -3.5 percent compared with 2006.

Among the top four visitor markets in August, air arrivals from Canada increased by +8.5 percent year-on-year to 19,101 but visitations from the US West (-24.2 percent), US East (-16.5 percent) and, as mentioned, Japan (-13.9 percent) were down sharply from last year.

For a variety of reasons – fuel surcharges on tickets due to rising oil prices have been key – the Japanese market has been very soft in Hawaii throughout the year, coming off that weak 2007. While per person per trip spending rose +2.0 percent in August, that was not enough to offset the downturn in arrivals, with total expenditure by Japanese visitors in the month falling by -12.2 percent to US$178 million (year-to-date -2.1 percent to US$1,249.5 million).

More Japanese visitors came to the islands to honeymoon (+6 percent) or to get married (+2.7 percent) in August compared to the same month a year earlier. For the first eight months of 2008 there were 119,431 honeymooners from Japan, up +4.7 percent year-on-year. There were also more repeat visitors from Japan in August 2008 compared to the same month last year (70.8 percent versus 68.9 percent).

But in the face of intense competition from other destinations, notably shorter-haul, cheaper intra-Asia alternatives, Hawaii faces a major challenge in arresting the Japanese decline.

State Tourism Liaison Marsha Wienert commented: "Hawaii's visitor industry is feeling the effects of the continued softness in the national economy. The performance of Hawaii's summer season exemplifies the volatility of the visitor industry on uncontrollable outside factors.

"Rising fuel prices, the loss of two Norwegian Cruise ships and a decrease in international cruise ship visits, the mortgage crisis and consumer confidence have all played a part in tourism's decline.

"On a positive note, even with the continued declines from the US and Japan, visitors from Canada continue to grow, extending the typical Canadian visitor season to our islands," said Wienert.

Putting an upbeat spin on grim numbers, she noted: "Hawaii's visitor industry is resilient and even with the current challenges there are still many opportunities to increase visitors in both the short and long term. Airlines have not cut flights to Hawaii at the level as many other destinations, and in fact we will be gaining new seats this fall.

"Starting in October Delta Airlines will resume several flights to the islands that had been cancelled earlier in the year. Alaska Airlines will be adding flights from Seattle to Kona in November and Anchorage to Kahului in October with seasonal flights from Honolulu to Anchorage. The biggest challenge we face moving forward is to increase demand for our islands. By increasing demand the visitor industry and our economy will benefit."

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's recently published 2007 Annual Visitor Research Report noted "exceptional double-digit" increases in expenditures and visitors days by visitors from Canada, Oceania and 'Other Asia'.

The Hawaiian tourism sector is hoping that with the easing of travel restrictions for South Korean and Chinese visitors (part of 'Other Asia'), those markets will grow fast in coming years. ***(www.TheMoodieReport.com)***

SPIRIT WEEK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Grace Christian Academy first grade students cheer to show their school spirit during the school's celebration of its annual Spirit Week last week.

OIA's Pula meets with Tinian leadership

Nikolao Pula, director for the Office of Insular Area, visited Tinian on Sept. 24 and met with Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas and the Tinian leadership.

Pula was accompanied on this side trip to Tinian by Gov. Benigno Fitial and some of his Cabinet members and staff, including Finance Secretary Eloy Inos.

San Nicolas was able to discuss with Pula and the Governor a variety of issues ranging from additional CIP funding needs to the military buildup concerns in the CNMI.

The Tinian leadership expressed the urgency of completing the new Tinian landfill, the Tinian International Airport's instrument landing system project and other capital improvement project requirements for infrastructure.

In a statement, the Tinian mayor said he was encouraged by the positive attitude and genuine concern of Pula and his commitment to helping the Tinian municipal government. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rep. Edwin P. Aldan, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, OIA Director Nikolao Pula, CIP administrator Vicky Villagomez, Gov. Benigno R. Fital, Mayor's Office legal counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Charlene M. Lizama, Tinian Delegation chair Joseph M. Mendiola, and Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas.

Rota's DPS sets insurance, DUI, seatbelt checkpoints

The Rota Department of Public Safety said that its Traffic Section will be conducting one insurance checkpoint and one DUI/sobriety checkpoint this Friday, Oct. 3, 2008.

The first checkpoint will be held along San Francisco Highway Pinatang by the Commerce Office. It will start at about 4pm and will last approximately 75 minutes, to end at about 5:15pm.

The second checkpoint will be conducted along San Francisco Highway by the Rota Hotel. The checkpoint will start around 7:30pm. This checkpoint will last approximately 75 minutes. It will be terminated at about 8:45pm.

Both checkpoints will be terminated if it begins to rain.

The Traffic Section will also be conducting an occupant protection/child restraint checkpoint on Oct. 4, 2008. This checkpoint will be held along San Francisco highway by the Sinapalo 3 Park. The checkpoint will commence at about 10am and last approximately 75 minutes. It will be terminated at about 11:15am.

There will be a DUI/sobriety checkpoint on Oct. 4 as well. This will be held along San Francisco Highway by Teteto Beach. It will commence at about 8pm and last approximately 75 minutes. It will be terminated at about 9:15pm. Both checkpoints will be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans Day meeting today

The CNMI will be paying tribute to all who served and are serving today in the U.S. Armed Forces during Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 2008.

This is to let all individuals interested in being a part of this year's Veteran's Day Committee that we have began to meet every Tuesday at 9am at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend. For any questions, call 664-2650. ***(PR)***

'Meet John Davis' forum

There will be a public forum to meet John H. Davis Jr., candidate for delegate to the U.S. Congress this Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan. Be an informed voter. Meet John Davis, hear his views on the issues to be faced by the delegate to U.S. Congress, and ask questions and offer your comments and views on those issues. For more information, call Jeanne Rayphand, 287-9807. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 2008 yearbooks

This is to inform all members of the Marianas High School's Class of 2008 that the yearbooks are in. You can pick up your yearbooks from the MHS Main Office, Monday to Friday, from 3:30pm to 5pm. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on FDM

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, from 9am to 6:30pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

DEQ sets Unai Dangkulu beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point (Unai Dangkulu beach).

Persons who would like to volunteer their time to clean and beautify the island can join brigade members on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continues, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Volunteers removed 420 lbs of debris from Wing Beach on Sept. 6. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Kristo Rai church affected by high cost of power

By NAZARIO RODRIGGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Kristo Rai Parish is currently implementing cost cutting measures because of the high cost of power, affecting churchgoers attending daily Masses.

Parish priest Glen Ragsag said they paid about $4,000 for their electricity bills in the month of August alone.

This prompted them to stop the air conditioning system during the daily Mass services, except Sunday.

Fr. Ragsag said the proceeds of the golf tournament fundraising at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort last Sept. 27 that was intended for repairs at the church would be used for operational expenses instead.

Tournament coordinator Margaret Dela Cruz said they are still finalizing the exact amount of the funds raised in the tournament.

The amount will be known today.

A record of 85 players joined the annual tournament. Each player paid an entry fee of $100.

Last year, the organizers raised over $10,000.

Fr. Ragsag said this would not be enough if this amount is used for renovation.

Dela Cruz said the fund they have raised would be put into the general operations fund that could be used for repairs or to defray expenses such as electricity bills.

She said they are currently implementing major renovations at the church. Several leaks in the roof of the social hall were recently found. She said these need immediate repairs.

New MAFEA officers, board take oath

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

MAFEA officers, directors, and members pose for a group photo as the Hi Pitch Band entertains the crowd during the successful induction at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Saturday night.

Officers and board of directors of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects took their oath of office during their induction at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall Saturday night.

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo administered the oath for MAFEA 2008-2009 officers and directors, while Department of Public Works Building Safety Code director Martin Sablan served as the guest speaker.

Norberto I. De Guzman, a civil engineer with the Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates, is the MAFEA president. Hector Sevilla, an architect with MD Group & Associates, is vice-president for internal, while civil engineer Ruel Magtalas of Laolao Bay Development Inc. is vice-president for external. Enrique Tabanda, a civil engineer with Maeda Pacific Corp., is this year's public relations officer.

The other officers are electrical engineer Joseph Liberato as treasurer; electronic and communication engineer Annie Liberato as assistant treasurer; mechanical engineer Carlito J. Marquez as secretary; civil engineer Dominador Aquino as auditor; and civil engineer Fernando Fortadez as business manager.

For the board of directors, civil engineer Henry P. Bautista of E.M. Chen is this year's chairman while civil engineer Andrew Mesina is the vice-chairman.

The other directors are architect Roger Talapian, architect Mirope Casipit, civil engineer Randy Jacob, civil engineer Rommel Crisostomo, civil engineer Noli Villacrusis, and architect Ismael Cuenca.

In his acceptance speech, MAFEA president De Guzman said that, in line with their motto—"We Build"— the organization will be lending its hands in the best way its members can to be of help to the CNMI community and the Philippines.

"We will continue to build a concrete and dependable organization as what other groups have done and are still is doing," De Guzman said.

He said their slogan is professional enhancement in preserving the high ethical standard in the new millennium.

"MAFEAns' learning process didn't stop when we obtained our bachelor's degree, as there is what we call continuing education. Technology in the new millennium changes so fast, and you need to enhance and upgrade your knowledge," the president said.

Hi Pitch Band made the induction program lively. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Pago patients die for lack of doctors

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—A report released yesterday by the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) states that LBJ physicians are "left making guesses about patient diagnoses" due to the lack of medical specialists and critical equipment.

The report, "Insular Area Health Care" "At the Crossroads of a Total Breakdown" cites LBJ staff as saying "patients coming to the hospital suffering from head injuries and heart attacks have died because specialist[s] were not on island to treat them."

The report combines OIG personal observations and interviews of LBJ staff members to provide an idea of the difficulties and challenges existing in the seven insular areas which include American Samoa.

Overall, OIG states that the most notable communality challenge among the seven insular areas is that hospitals struggle to recruit and retain nurses, physicians and specialty practitioners, with salaries not enough to attract personnel.

According to the report, one of the LBJ's most serious problems is recruiting and retaining physicians and overworking the ones it does have.

LBJ staff told OIG low salaries and lack of benefits (pension or life insurance) are the reasons the hospital isn't able to attract specialists or skilled medical personnel.

According to the report, of the 36 physicians on staff at the hospital, six are U.S. medical doctors, six are practitioners licensed under local law, and 24 are practitioners working under a "license issued without completing the requirements for licensure."

LBJ staff members also relayed to OIG the continuous battle over the licensing of physicians.

The difficulty in obtaining specialists has affected patient care. The report states LBJ has three specialists that work on a revolving contract (two nephrologists and a cardiologist) and they visit the hospital for one week each quarter.

One senior hospital staff said there is a great need for a vascular surgeon due to the high number of dialysis patients.

With the lack of specialized treatment locally, patients are sent on an off-island medical referral program and due to the high cost, LBJ can only afford to pay for life threatening cases.

Referral costs are dependent on the illness and severity and a staff member says the per patient care averages $43,000. Patients are required to sign a promissory note for any costs above $100,000 and LBJ pays the cost and then bills the patient, but often, collection is impossible, according to the report.

According to OIG, LBJ's physicians have attempted to use "telemedicine" to assist in their duties but the hospital's current system has a poor screen solution and "times out", locking up sessions and preventing staff from getting needed diagnosis information.

"Staff have been told that improvements to upgrade the system would cost around $38,000," OIG said. "Patients are sometimes left depending on the diagnosis of LBJ physicians who do not have expertise in certain areas."

Another critical need for LBJ is modern equipment but there is not enough funds for such purchases, or even to replace equipment when it breaks, the report states.

For example, because the radiology ultrasound is broken, patients and radiology staff must go to the obstetrics unit to use their equipment. This creates long lines of patients needing treatment.

Last year, the CT scanner—which assists in pinpointing tumors, bleeding in brain and aneurysms—broke down and the replacement cost is $280,000 which exceeds LBJ's total equipment budget.

"We just diagnose without the service," a senior staff member told OIG. "Physicians have to 'take more of a guess at a diagnosis than know for certain what is going on'."

In the dental clinic, the X-Ray machine is obsolete and mended with duct tape. The X-Ray chair was so worn out that a dentist personally reupholstered it and spray-painted the foot rest.

The report also states the dental clinic staff are being exposed to elevated levels of radiation because the walls enclosing the X-Ray area do not have lead in them.

Hospital staff also expressed a need for items such as birthing beds, an ultrasound machine, incubators, a defibrillator, an infant warmer system, bassinet baby warmers, suction regulators and a fetal monitor just to name a few.

This tree is planted in honor of the
3rd Annual Chamorro Conference
by the
Honorable Mayor of Tinian,
Jose P. San Nicolas
on September 27, 2008.

TREE PLANTING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas is assisted by event organizer Ben Borja as they plant a tree at the Man'amko Center/Office of Aging in Garapan in honor of the 3rd annual Chamorro Conference Saturday morning.

New study: Sea level rising faster

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Scientists say fast-rising sea-levels are likely to hit Pacific Island countries sooner rather than later.

The latest study on levels of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere suggest emissions have kept on rising.

Predictions of the effects of climate change are based on projected increases in CO2.

A lead member of the International Carbon Project, Professor Corinne Le Quéré, says the trend makes the worst global warming scenario more likely.

"We have just published the figures for CO2 emissions for the entire world for 2007, and what we see is CO2 emissions have gone up again. They are now following the emissions scenario, of the highest emissions that have been used to project climate change this century. We are now on the path of the highest scenario, meaning that the global warming projections that have been made for the end of the century, if we continue to follow the high scenario, then we're at the top range of these projections."

Professor Le Quéré says ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland are on track to melt, pushing up sea levels by at least a metre a year or more.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Cooks tourism falls on who dengue report

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—The Ministry of Health is disappointed that the Cook Islands continues to be referred to as having a dengue outbreak. Public health has contacted the World Health Organisation in an attempt to correct misinformation that the Cook Islands is part of a dengue pandemic in the Pacific. While the Cooks recently had some suspected cases of dengue, only one type four (bleeding) case was confirmed and there has been no spread of the mosquito-borne disease. That case was picked up by a local in Samoa where there has been an outbreak since July. Acting health secretary Dr Josephine Aumea Herman says she has contacted WHO's Samoa office for an explanation of why the Cook Islands has been included with other Pacific countries as having a dengue outbreak in recent regional news reports.

Marshalls president addresses UN

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)— Marshall Islands President Litokwa Tomeing said his country, like other island States in the Pacific, is struggling to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Its efforts had been made more difficult by unpredictable global forces, such as the current energy crisis sparked by higher fuel costs. The vast distances between islands had made transport in the region excessively expensive, and the adverse impact of fuel price spikes had been immediate and severe. The transportation of essential goods and the movement of people to and from far-flung islands had been sharply curtailed as a result. Further, the dispensation of essential services and food products had been acutely impaired, crippling the country's ability to sustain normal public services and threatening food security and medical services. The country had been forced to declare a state of economic emergency.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 30, 1999

PSS to release retirement bonus

The Public School System will begin cutting checks for the retirement bonus of 37 PSS employees whose cash benefits have been withheld since December due to funding problem, education officials said yesterday. The Board of Education has approved Commissioner Rita Inos' move to reduce funding for different PSS programs in order to raise $525,000 in retirement obligation.

Resumption of Korean Air service still uncertain

An official of Korea's Civil Aviation Bureau has informed Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio that the resumption of Korean Air's service to Saipan will depend on the results of the investigation on the airline's 1997 tragic crash in Guam. According to Sung-Ho Yang, director general for international affairs of CAB of the Ministry of Construction and Transportation, the outcome of the probe conducted by the U.S. Transportation and Safety Board will be made public next month.

September 30, 2002

"No Tinian, Rota reorganization'

Saying he is finished with personnel termination or reorganization, Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright said he has no plans to undertake a similar move on NMC's satellite campuses on Tinian and Rota. "If you're asking me do I plan a reorganization that's going to affect personnel there? absolutely not. I'm done with reorganizing as it impacts people as dramatically [as it has here]," he said in an interview Friday. "I'm not coming back to do that," he added.

CHC's staffing contracts may be extended for 3 more months

The one-year extension given by the government last year to three staffing agencies that supply nurses to the Commonwealth Health Center may be further extended for at least three more months pending protests by two bidders. The one-year extension, which was authorized by the Department of Health, expires today. But this would not happen because the Procurement and Supply Office has not awarded new bids yet.

Wright to overhaul BoR policies too

To achieve maximum organizational change, Northern Marianas College board policies have to be reviewed and overhauled, too, in relation to the recent reorganization at the college, according to NMC President Kenneth Wright. Wright said he and the members of the Board of Regents have agreed on the issue. "it covers the whole board policy...I discussed it with the board and they agreed that we're going to discard all the existing board policies and start building from the ground up," he said. Wright said it would be done "step by step."

September 30, 2003

Reluctant House passes FY04 budget

The Senate majority's unyielding position against a conference committee prompted the House yesterday to reinstate the Upper House's amendments to the $213.95 million FY04 budget bill—essentially slashing over $900,000 from Rota's allotment. Backed into a corner, 17 House members agreed to recall the action they made Friday, when they decided to send House Bill 13-335, HD3, SD3 to a conference committee in hopes of renegotiating the cuts made on Rota's budget. The amount cut from Rota was given to Tinian.

Mayor condemns action on budget

Rota Mayor Benjamin B. Manglona condemned yesterday the Legislature's decision to take away close to $1 million from the First Senatorial District under the proposed FY04 budget, branding the move as an "action of the devil." The Rota official, reacting to the House's passage of the Senate-amended House Bill 13-335, accused the Legislature, especially Saipan and Tinian lawmakers, of promoting disunity among the Commonwealth senatorial districts.

Hotel told to shut down its generator

The Coastal Resources Management issued a notice yesterday to Plumeria Hotel, practically demanding that it shut down its generator and immediately hook up with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for its power needs. In a notice addressed to Plumeria Hotel general manager Toshiyuki Kobayashi, CRM director Jack Salas said the hotel's power generator "has created adverse environmental impacts" during the past two years.

Island Snapshots

CHAMORRO CONFERENCE

Local sculptor Manny Bermudes displays a wooden carving of a shark at the exhibit during the first day of the 3rd annual Chamorro Conference at Saipan World Resort.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundred of students and other guests listen to the speakers during the first day of the 3rd annual Chamorro Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Our family would like to greet our little girl, Ellicyn No'elani Benavente Aguon, a happy second birthday. "We Love you so much and we hope that you enjoy your very special day! May you have many more birthdays and presents to come!" From Mommy, Daddy, Kioney, AJ, Amma, Papa, Nino and Nina and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PREL DONATION

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, left, along with Board of Education chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita, second from right, and vice chair Herman Guerrero, third from left, present Saipan Southern High School Principal Peter James Le'au, second from left, and SSHS band instructor William DeWitt, third from right, and class a check for $3,500 on behalf of the Pacific Regional Educational Laboratories board of directors for the purchase a new Tuba instrument for the band. The school was host to the PREL board of director's annual meeting earlier this year and its members were impressed with the accomplishments of the SSHS band. Several SSHS band members recently just returned from playing at the 2008 Olympics in Bejing China, another first for the CNMI. At right is SSHS student Felevan Fitial.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OATH OF ATTORNEY

CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Miguel S. Demapan administers the oath of attorney for Judy Marie Deleon Guerrero Torres last Friday at the CNMI Supreme Court. Others in picture are associate justice John Manglona and Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos. Torres is the younger sister of attorneys Vince, Joaquin, and Victorino of the Torres Brothers Law Firm.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

NEW RESORT

A plan for a multi-million dollar resort on Saipan is displayed as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs the provisional lease agreement with Flame Sako Resort and Spa president and CEO Kang Dae-Sik at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Friday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

LIGHT MOMENT

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shares a light moment with Nikolao Pula, director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, during the Water Task Force ribbon cutting ceremony last week for the new Calhoun reservoir on Navy Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PEEK-A-BOO

A visitor is seen through the large branches of an old tree on Managaha Island.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

A question of leadership in crisis

John McCain and Barack Obama and Barack Obama entered Friday's debate with fewer differences on foreign policy than their rhetoric usually suggests. Some nuances excepted, the two candidates basically have the same ideas for containing the Iranian and North Korean nuclear programs, responding to Russia's aggressiveness toward its neighbors, fighting the war in Afghanistan and advancing the Middle East peace process. On many of those issues they wouldn't stray far from the policies they would inherit from President Bush.

McCain has characterized Obama as naively seeking unconditional negotiations with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Cuba's Raul Castro and other rogue rulers, while the Obama campaign portrays McCain as unwilling to "talk to our enemies." In fact, Obama has hedged his nominal willingness to meet personally with the Iranian leadership with several conditions, while the McCain campaign says his administration would support negotiations with Iran that include U.S. diplomats. Both men would send more troops to Afghanistan and support U.S. strikes against Taliban and al-Qaida targets in Pakistan—even though McCain once criticized Obama for publicly endorsing the Pakistan attacks, and Obama claimed McCain "won't go to the cave where (Osama bin Laden) lives."

The sharpest disputes between the two candidates, until now, have come over Iraq—but there, too, a rapidly changing situation may be narrowing their differences. Obama's first foreign policy talking point has been his assertion that he was right to oppose the invasion of Iraq, which McCain supported; McCain's strongest argument for himself may be his advocacy of last year's "surge," which Obama opposed. Obama now concedes that the surge succeeded "beyond our wildest dreams," while Mr. McCain has had to adjust to the reality that the Iraqi government is now pressing for a U.S. troop withdrawal by the end of 2010, a few months later than Obama's 16-month timetable. Their key remaining difference may be conditionality: McCain and the Iraqi leaders want to link withdrawals to continued progress in stabilizing the country, while Obama has argued that they should be used to force Iraqis to reconcile and take control of security.

The biggest differences between the two candidates may boil down to one that has hardly been discussed—McCain's support for, and Obama's resistance to, new free-trade agreements—and one that the campaign has showcased, which is their differing leadership styles. Obama has been deliberative on foreign policy, sometimes to the point of looking indecisive: he has some 300 advisers. McCain takes counsel from a far smaller circle and sometimes seems to leap to bold conclusions—like his declaration that "we are all Georgians" after Russia's invasion of its Caucasus neighbor last month.

Who would respond better to a crisis? That may be the most important question that voters have to weigh.

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Bailout? Just do nothing

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times*. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com*

I am a huge proponent, at all times, of doing nothing. Remember when everyone was filling bunkers with millet because computers wouldn't be able to handle a year with three zeros in it? I stayed Calvin Coolidge cool. After America was attacked on 9/11, I suggested keeping our armies home. When John McCain responded to the economic crisis he'd have to deal with as president by suspending his campaign, I started to think that maybe he's my guy after all.

Even though I understand so little about economics that much of my long-term investments are tied up in Costco products, I feel pretty sure that letting Congress give Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson $700 billion to buy super-crappy mortgages is not the right call.

Sure, like any American, when I see a photo on the Internet of an adorable little investment bank and find out it's at risk of being put to sleep , I want to throw in $2,000 to $3,000 of my own money to adopt it. But instead of jacking up inflation, letting the dollar sink further and paying higher taxes so we can keep up cheap borrowing—which is what this plan amounts to—I think we need to let those who made bad loans get burned. We need to accept that credit will dry up and that maybe—for just a bit—we'll have to stop buying more than we can afford.

Even though I understand so little about economics that much of my long-term investments are tied up in Costco products, I feel pretty sure that letting Congress give Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson $700 billion to buy super-crappy mortgages is not the right call.

Because it's not just the Wall Street bankers who over-leveraged their companies who are to blame. Do you have credit card debt? Did you buy a house with less than 20 percent down, or with an adjustable-rate mortgage, assuming that skyrocketing equity would let you refinance or flip it? Of course you didn't, because you're a super-intelligent reader of my column. But don't you think every single Rosa Brooks reader did?

Americans have been living beyond our means, and we should have recognized that fact the moment we saw those glass Voss water bottles. But we can recover from our misbehavior through a little austerity, like having only one house—perhaps one NBA players couldn't play chicken in. More than the mistakes made along the way, however, I fear the overreaction to them, a lesson I learned from chief economist Wyle E. Coyote.

So let's not stop the short-selling of financial stocks—the only brake on overindulgence—as Paulson did last week. Let's not strip Congress of yet another power by giving the Treasury secretary the right to decide where to dole out a large portion of our budget. Let's not encourage more risky loans by making profits private and losses public. And let's not create some bastardized form of communism in which the new rule is, " From each according to his ability , to each according to the size of the investment bank he owns shares in."

And if we really are going to give money to the rich, let's at least follow the rules we demand other countries adopt when the International Monetary Fund bails them out: slash spending, balance budgets and eliminate trade restrictions and subsidies. We also sometimes force them to come here and clean our houses, do our gardening and watch our kids. I foresee a not-too-distant future when Chinese guys complain about how every time their cheap Google phone breaks, they can't understand the tech-support guy because his Mandarin has a thick Minnesotan accent.

More than 100 of the nation's top economists—from the left and right as well as other countries—signed a letter to Congress warning it not to let Paulson have his way. We can't panic at a dropping Dow Jones industrial average, rising interest rates or companies going under; capitalism means that our over-excitement will lead to some down years after a lot of good ones. But the best economic system is still one in which $700 billion of decisions are spread among all of us, not one guy who used to run Goldman Sachs and who, just this summer, said that the economy was fine.

We've got a basically sound banking system that got a little under-regulated during the Clinton administration. We just have some unsound banks that I hope will be replaced by ones with much more exciting names, such as Citi :) or the Bank of OM G. This recession is going to be ugly no matter what we do. Which is why I suggest doing nothing.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

My turn to tell the truth

I was falsely accused of illegal possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition. This month, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja cleared me of my conviction and has ordered my record to be erased "in the best interests of justice and the public."

This is my side of the story and a good example of public corruption leading to my arrest.

Here's some concrete information: Based on bad detective work, it took over 20 police officers to search and destroy my belongings (whatever happened to search and seizure?). My personal property were thrown on the dirt, pictures and frames were thrown to the floor, later stepped on and damaged, and other personal belongings that had sentimental value were destroyed and *they did not find a single gun* because there weren't any! DPS went looking for weapons based on false pretenses arising from investigative information from a DPS confidential informant [*name deleted*]. And my brother Aniceto was arrested for having in his possession rifles issued by DPS and Boating Safety, so having the so-called weapons that led to his arrest—only to find out that he signed it out after all—*was poor investigative work*.

I was also falsely accused of beating up my ex-wife Felicidad. The supposed incident happened in October 2005 and was only reported four months later, which was in February 2006. My arrest was based on stale information and with no evidence to prove such allegation. The court dismissed this charge because it found no evidence of such allegation.

The picture is becoming clearer on the fabrication of the alleged offenses that led to my arrest. The charges were made up out of pure vengeance, abuse of authority and manipulation of other officers. This ignorance of law enforcement rules and DPS protocols has cost the morale of the DPS and loss of respect among dedicated officers. Officer Chris Deleon Guerrero, who was the case agent, had already come forward and apologized about the wrongdoing that was done to my brother and me, stating that he was pressured and force to do it.

In short, I did not say anything about killing the governor. I did not say, "Blow up DPS"; I did not commit the offense of assault and battery; I did not smuggle any guns; and I never possessed an illegal firearm.

I did sign a plea agreement to unlawful possession of ammunition. I trusted my lawyers' recommendation and trusted their judgment and expertise. I was led to believe that it was a good deal. I guess I paid the price because now I know it was not—I got arrested based of my job description. The functions of my duties as the CNMI Range Master was reviewed and acknowledged by former attorney general Pam Brown and former governor Juan Babauta upon my employment with DPS.

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference to their community, but I never had that problem. I was that which others did not want to be, and went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do. Upon retiring from the Marine Corps with 22 years of career service, I wanted to come back to Saipan will all the trainings I received to assist and better educate our law enforcement personnel in their training capacity for ready tactical response, if need be.

I have a certification as a U.S. Marine Corps Weapons Instructor, certified to construct target ranges to include recreational target ranges, a certificate from the FBI Academy as firearms instructor, a certification from Smith and Wesson Academy for Advance Firearms Instructor in Tactical Weapons, a certified armorer from Massachusetts, a certification from Sigarm Academy in Indiana as a firearms instructor, U.S. Scuba Diver certification from Naval Submarine Station in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, certified Repel Master in Fort Cambell, Kentucky, and a certified U.S. Marine Corps drill instructor, not to mention other Marine Corps combat tactics. My last firearm instructor certification was with the Honolulu FBI that held its first training in Guam in 2005. In addition, I've trained and certified a couple of police officers and Fire personnel thru the Drill Instructor Course; they are presently instructing at DPS Academy.

In the short period that I was employed with DPS, I managed to complete the construction of the Range and Standard Operating Procedures for Firearm Training Facility (which didn't exist prior to my arrival); conducted classes and certified safety officers for the shooting gallery, to include safety inspection for safe operation; introduced and assisted in the drafting of the 1st Firearms Safety Education Act in the CNMI, which is now Public Law 14-51; involved with the application of federal grants under the Safe Neighborhood Program to include public education in schools; and conducted firearms safety classes for all gun owners, among many other duties. I also upgraded the training proficiency uniform throughout the CNMI police.

The DPS and other law enforcement agency in the CNMI deserve to have a qualified range master who has all the credentials, experience and knowledge to perform the job effectively.

After everything that I've been through, I believe "there is no peace until there's justice." My peace and justice is to tell you the truth. As Judge Govendo told Attorney General St. Peter during my trial, "Don't twist the wrong to make it right."

Ambrose T. Ogumoro

Chamorro Conference and the political debate

It was an honor to have been a part of the panel for *Tetsit Konferesian Chamorro*. Our appreciation goes out to the organizers of such a conference, especially to Mr. Daniel Quitugua and many others involved. The one thing that we would like to point is that this conference was supposedly a gathering to discuss issues such the protection of our language and culture. Instead it ended in political debates concerning current issues with the federal government. We disagree that the adviser for the indigenous group, Mr. Scott Rasa, seized the moment to address the waste of time the lawsuit that the administration had imposed against the federal government. We were prepared to respond and in doing so a question was posed by a supporter of the lawsuit and a close constituent of former congresswoman Malua Peter. Mrs. Bernadita Dungca of UOG Guam aggressively raised the question who Taotao Tano was representing. Which led to a heated and immature and disrespectful response by Peter, a close relative of a former colleague, Governor Fitial.

This is a question only this administration would raise against Taotao Tano for they are ignorant and wrong to file such a lawsuit. We must remember that for over two decades our government had control over Labor and Immigration and they failed tremendously, inflicting such failure upon the U.S. citizens of the Commonwealth. The U.S. government has since been keeping track of all these Labor and Immigration issues and it would a shame and a huge embarrassment should the Fitial administration lose in court, instilling more harm to our people and the CNMI. The proponents of this lawsuit against the federal government need to grow up, for they were a minority back then when the people of the Commonwealth opted to become U.S. citizens by 78 percent.

The other issue is that the administration's special legal counsel, Mr. Howard Willens, knew for over 25 years that the Covenant had some provisions that are challengeable in court but did nothing until U.S. Congress passed a law mandating control over our Immigration and Labor system. The federal government's evidence against our government on this matter is substantiated and the proponents behind the lawsuit will give the CNMI a huge black eye for they do not stand a chance of winning such an embarrassing lawsuit.

Kudos to all the organization from Guam that attended and best of luck to all of them.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

All animals deserve a chance

There is a sickening feeling that comes with losing a dog. What makes it even more sickening is when the dog dies at a time of someone else's choosing. The dog may not have been ready to go, the owners were definitely NOT ready to let it go, but a total, unaware stranger with a shotgun was armed and ready to put the puppy down.

Luna was one of the most loving dogs I've met. On the few encounters I have had with the young dog, she had been nothing less than a bundle of kisses and happy yips. When her owners, two teachers in the community, returned that night, they weren't welcomed by Luna's energy, because Luna had been shot moments before. The obvious suspect played dumb and, upon calling the police, the family was assured that an investigation was in order. Obviously, thanks to the *great* response team Saipan has, nothing has been done about the situation. Probably because the suspect was the distant cousin of one of the officers.

I am totally and completely outraged. Anger is an understatement. The fact is, neither Luna nor her owners had ever done anything to offend the man and Luna was wearing a collar and tags that clearly showed she belonged to someone else. Still, the man just shot the dog, and left her waiting, body still warm and blood still running, because of the coldness in his heart. People either do not care or are not aware of the value of a good pet. People do not appreciate a furry friend to come home to and to cuddle with. I'm sure that more than half of Saipan's population hasn't even given a dog or a cat the chance to warm their heart. Animals out here seem to be considered more of a watchdog or rat-catcher then a member of the family. Animals are considered pests, and that is how they are treated.

Unfortunately, as a pet owner, I've realized how wrong they are. We cannot expect to convert all the people of Saipan to animal kindness. What we can do is take a stand for them. Animal rights are a must. Every living, breathing creature deserves to be respected. Unfortunately, we cannot bring Luna back, but we can do something with the story she has left behind, because Luna didn't die for nothing. Through her death there is the opportunity to state the ridiculous manner through which everyday people treat animals, and how lightly police officials consider animal abuse cases. All animals deserve a chance.

Madison Smith
via e-mail

Editorial forum

To the delegate candidates and *Saipan Tribune*: I want to thank the delegate candidates for submitting their letters for publishing and to the *Saipan Tribune* for supporting the Editorial Forum and providing this badly needed public service in such a professional presentation. On behalf of those who appreciated the forum, thank you *Saipan Tribune*.

It didn't matter who wrote and who did not write because each response and non-response will be given weight in the decision of many people. Although the people were only able to read the letters of Pete A. Tenorio, John Oliver Gonzales and Chong Man Won, the people also raised doubts about those who did not respond. Many voters are going to look at the delegates who responded *first* before even considering those who failed to write a simple letter about their plans.

To the delegates who did not respond—David Cing, Juan Lizama, Luis Crisostomo, John Davis, Gregorio C. Sablan and Felipe Atalig—I am urging you to answer the second question because your stock in falling fast. There is no way you can dodge this forum without losing votes because the whole purpose is to gain votes. If you are truly a delegate for Congress then I know you were aware of the Editorial Forum. I can understand some apprehension, especially when two people wrote letters trying to disrupt the forum and if the forum had been in a building they would have been kicked out. As you can see, the *Saipan Tribune* and many people in the community are in full support of the Editorial Forum. I am urging you to ignore the antics of people on the sidelines and respond to the second question if you are sincere abut becoming our delegate to Congress. This forum will have a positive affect on the outcome of the people's selection because the people will have a much better idea about who is the best candidate. If you are on the sidelines with everyone else and not in the game you can't be the best.

To Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio, John Oliver Gonzales and Chong Man Won, your stock has gone up and your opposition's is declining by default**.** I'm sure many people will be looking forward to hear the responses to the second question and hopefully more candidates will participate. The participation of a candidate in public forums will greatly improve the potential for approval in the voting booth; that's Political Science 101.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Editor's Note: The second question being posed to the delegate candidates is: "What is your stance on federalization and how will you approach it as our Delegate to Congress?" Responses will be published on Friday. Deadline to submit responses is Oct. 2, at 12pm.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

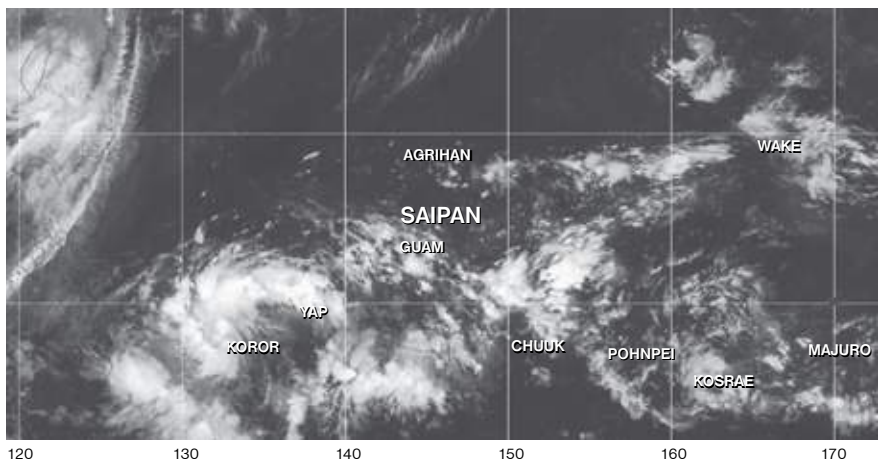
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼49
Beijing	Sunny	▲82	▼54
Hong Kong	Showers	▲85	▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼75
London	Rain	▲55	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲83	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼55
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
New York	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼60
Osaka	Rain	▲72	▼63
Paris	Showers	▲60	▼50
Pusan	Cloudy	▲79	▼64
Rome	Sunny	▲69	▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲77	▼54
Tokyo	Rain	▲66	▼62
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲76	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:15AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from the Philippines to a tropical disturbance centered between Koror and Yap near 9N136E then turns southeastward to end at 1N142E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are seen over Koror within 100 miles of 8N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis just west of Koror between 2N and 13N from 130E to 133E and southeast of Yap within 150 miles of a line from 9N140E to 5N148E. An upper-level trough extends eastward from an upper low centered west of the Marianas near 16N138E to another upper low centered east of Saipan near 17N150E then turns northeastward to a third upper low centered north of Wake Island near 27N163E and curves southeastward through yet one more upper low centered near 22N174E to beyond the dateline at 19N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis over Guam and Rota within 90 miles of a line from 15N139E to 16N142E to 10N146E and west of Agrihan within 80 miles of 19N141E. Similar conditions also exist east of CNMI between 15N and 19N from 150E to 161E and near Wake Island but east of Minamitori Shima within 90 miles of a line from 25N160E to 17N173E. A surface trough runs southeastward from northeast of Chuuk at 12N153E to a weak circulation centered near Pohnpei at 7N156E then turns eastward through another circulation centered near Majuro at 7N170E to beyond 180 at 9N. Convergence related to this trough is producing scattered showers north to northeast of Chuuk within 140 miles of a line from 9N150E to 13N158E and over a large area covering Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands. This area is between 3N and 11N from 157E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:09AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:14AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:21PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:57PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:07AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:07AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:07AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:07AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:33AM	6:31PM
Wednesday	7:24AM	7:10PM
Thursday	8:16AM	7:51PM
Friday	9:08AM	8:35PM
Saturday	10:01AM	9:22PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,888.700
Down 45.900
(-0.93%)

HONG KONG
18,293.53
Down 388.56
(-2.08%)

JAKARTA
1,845.55
Down 0.541
(-0.03%)

TOKYO
11,834.62
Down 58.54
(-0.49%)

K. LUMPUR
1,021.83
Up 1.30
(+0.13%)

MANILA
2,607.58
Up 10.35
(+0.40%)

SINGAPORE
2,400.91
Down 10.55
(-0.44%)

SEOUL
1,468.5
Down 7.83
(-0.53%)

BANGKOK
616.91
Down 2.06
(-0.33%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,143.13
+121.07

NASDAQ
2,183.34
-3.23

S&P
1,213.01
+3.83

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2038
British Pound	0.5467
Canadian Dollar	1.0364
Chinese Renmbi	6.8327
Euro	0.6893
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7723
Indian Rupee	46.89
Indonesian Rupiah	9457.5
Japanese Yen	106.455
Malaysian Ringgit	3.442
New Zealand Dollar	1.4575
Philippine Peso	46.915
Singapore Dollar	1.4294
South Korean Won	1190.1
Swiss Franc	1.0954
Taiwan Dollar	32.06
Thailand Baht	34.03

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Sold to US taxpayers for $700B: banks' bad assets

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sold to American taxpayers for up to $700 billion: an unprecedented plan to buy distressed banks' least desirable mortgage assets.

What started as a fairly simple three-page proposal giving the Treasury Secretary unchecked power to orchestrate a bailout of the country's financial system ended up as a complex rescue package, with enhanced congressional oversight, some added protections for taxpayers and a slap on the wrist to highly paid, underperforming executives.

The ultimate goal of the plan remains the same: buy bad mortgage-related bets from weakened financial companies so they can raise fresh capital and resume normal lending operations to businesses, municipalities and consumers.

Under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which is expected to come to a vote in the House on Monday, the Treasury Department gets $250 billion immediately to start buying up banks' and other financial institutions' least valuable mortgages and complex financial instruments backed by those mortgages.

If needed, an additional $100 billion is available at the discretion of the president, and a final $350 billion is on the table, unless Congress resolves to take it back. The president has the authority to veto such a resolution.

The measure also proposes limited caps on the pay and benefit packages of companies who receive the government rescue, strengthens government oversight of the program and adds an insurance program for financial companies' bad assets.

While Democratic negotiators made significant changes to the plan Paulson sent Congress a week ago, they did not get everything they had sought, particularly more help for troubled homeowners.

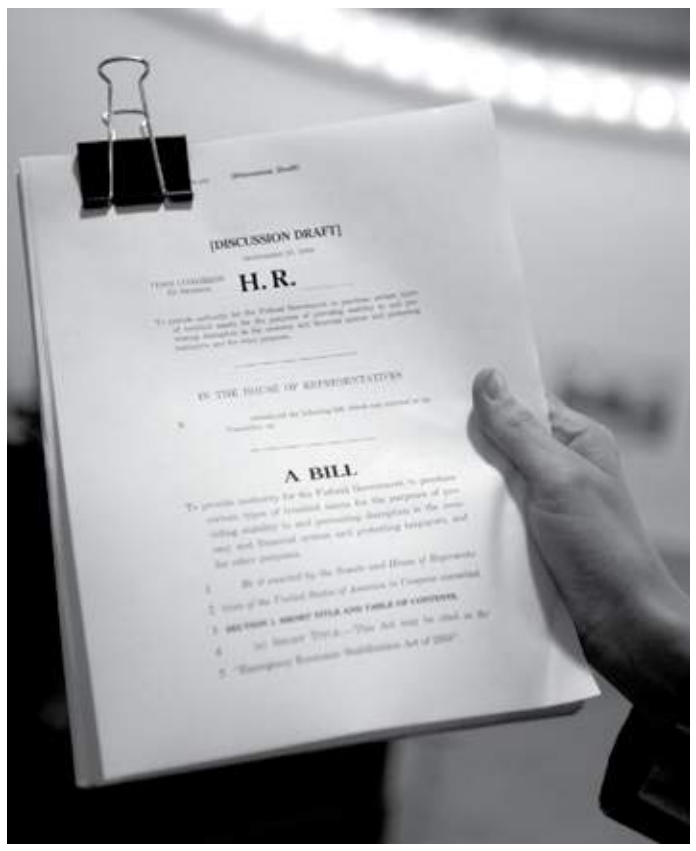
House Republicans, meanwhile, fought hard for—and won—a provision that would establish a program whereby banks could buy government insurance to back the principal and interest on certain troubled assets, rather than selling them outright. They argued this was a better deal for taxpayers, and would reduce the overall cost of the rescue package.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told negotiators that he believed the insurance plan would have only limited benefits.

While the plan broadly aims to prevent banks from profiting on the sale of troubled assets to the government, there is an exception made for assets acquired in a merger or buyout, or from companies that have filed for bankruptcy.

This detail could allow JP-Morgan Chase & Co. to sell toxic mortgages and other assets it gained control of last week when it purchased Washington Mutual Inc. for a higher price than the failed thrift paid for them.

The government will only buy mortgage investments originated on or before March 14, 2008.



AP

A reporter holds a discussion draft of legislation intended to fix the financial crisis Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Reports: Wachovia in talks with potential buyers

NEW YORK (AP)—At least two major banks were reportedly in talks Sunday to buy Wachovia Corp., the latest U.S. bank to be the focus of investor anxiety over mounting losses tied to toxic assets. The New York Times reported on its Web site that Citigroup Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. are bidding in a possible emergency takeover of Charlotte, N.C.-based Wachovia. The Wall Street Journal also listed Spain's Banco Santander SA as a possible bidder. Both papers cited people familiar with the talks who they did not name. Wachovia spokeswoman Christy Phillips-Brown declined to comment on the reports, as did Citigroup spokeswoman Christina Pretto. Wells Fargo spokesmen could not be immediately reached for comment. Wachovia's shares fell 27 percent in regular-session trading on Friday, and shed another 15 percent in after-hours dealings to end the week at $8.50, as investor worries heightened.

Airfares aren't taking off everywhere

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Air fares are up, right? The short answer is yes—22 fare increases this year. But fares in some cities are flat or even down, as fierce competition keeps airlines from charging as much as they would like. Business fares in early September were down 5 percent in Phoenix and 4 percent in New York compared to the same week last year, according to research by Bob Harrell of Harrell Associates, who tracks airfares. In many other cities ticket prices were up only marginally—1 percent in Orlando, 3 percent in Atlanta, 4 percent in Denver and Las Vegas. The good news in those cities doesn't change the bad news for everyone else: Overall, fares are up—11 percent for leisure travel, 6 percent for business fares, according to Harrell. Many individual cities are worse. He found year-over-year increases of 26 percent in Philadelphia, 17 percent in Minneapolis, 15 percent in Newark, N.J., 12 percent in Dallas.

Santander said to take Bradford & Bingley deposits

LONDON (AP)—The troubled British mortgage lender Bradford & Bingley will be nationalized and sold off in parts, with Spanish banking giant Santander SA taking over its retail deposits and branch network, British media reported Monday. Treasury officials and financial regulators held talks over the weekend on the future of the mortgage lender. Bradford & Bingley spokesman Tony McGarahan said an announcement would be made before the stock market opened Monday but the company would not comment Sunday on the media reports. Britain's Press Association reported late Sunday that Spanish banking giant Santander would take over Bradford & Bingley's retail deposits and branch network. The agency quoted an unidentified Santander spokesman, who did not offer details on the deal.

Who wins, who loses under proposed bailout plan?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The proposal to bail out U.S. financial markets to the tune of up to $700 billion creates a lot of potential short-term winners, as well as some losers.

Wall Street and the banking industry are perhaps the biggest winners. Scores of banks and other financial institutions faced with going under stand to gain a lifeline that should allow them to start making loans again.

Under the plan that congressional aide sought to put into final form Sunday, the Treasury Department can start buying up troubled mortgage-related securities now held by these institutions.

These securities are clogging balance sheets, leaving banks without the required capital to make new loans and putting the banks dangerously close to insolvency.

Banks not only have slowed lending to individuals and businesses, they have stopped making loans to each other. The rescue plan should help restore confidence to financial markets.

There are other winners, too, if the bailout works as intended: anyone soon trying to borrow money—for cars, student loans, even to open new credit card accounts.

Top executives at troubled financial institutions, on the other hand, are in the losing column because the proposal would limit their compensation and rules out "golden parachutes."

Of course, these executives may take solace in knowing their jobs still exist.

Investors, including the millions of people who hold stock in their 401(k) and pension plans, should benefit. Failure to reach a deal over the weekend could have sent stock markets around the world tumbling on Monday.

Homeowners faced with foreclosure or those who have lost their homes get little help from the agreement. Nor will it help people whose houses are worth less than what they owe get refinancing or take out equity loans.

It would do little to halt the slide in home values that are one of the root causes of the current economic slowdown.

Sour economy tied to psychology that fed gas panic

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—As anxiety on Wall Street led banks and other investors to hoard cash last week, a different kind of market fear gripped cities across the Southeast.

A hurricane-related disruption in gasoline supplies prompted jittery drivers from Atlanta to Nashville to top off their fuel tanks more than usual, causing sporadic shortages and temporary shutdowns of stations. These closures only magnified the problem, of course, leading to more shortages, which sent local prices skyrocketing.

"It's a wonder people didn't go out and empty all of the grocery store shelves, too," said Larry Lamb, of Nashville. "All you need to do when something like this happens is just calm down."

Perhaps—in hindsight—that is the sensible thing to do.

But economists and other experts say individuals—not just Americans—are hard-wired to respond quickly when they are scared, and in a way that is not always in their own, or their neighbors', best interests.

Dennis Jacobe, chief economist for Gallup Inc., said an emotional response is quite normal when expectations—such as gas being available or the safety of a money-market fund—suddenly are called into question.

"When those basic assumptions of your daily life are violated, it sends you a shock and you do get emotional, irrational reactions," Jacobe said. "That means panic."

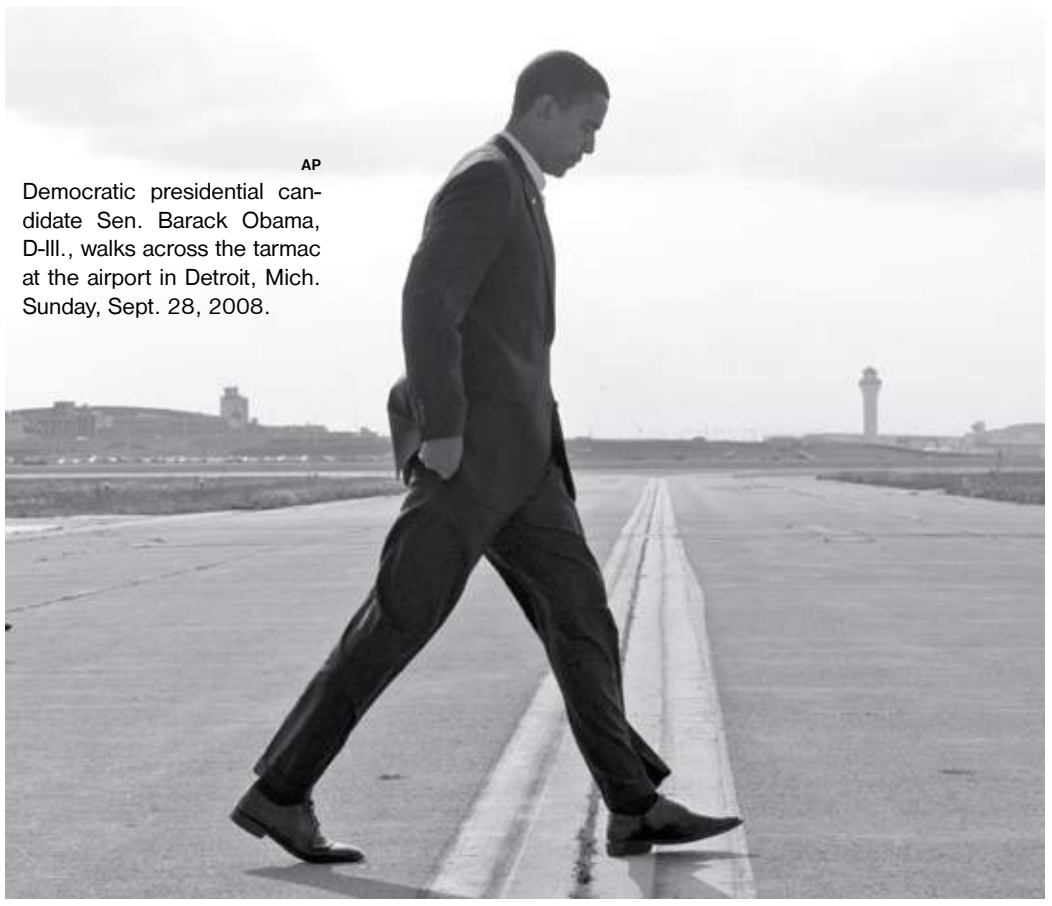
Lars Perner, an assistant professor of clinical marketing at the University of Southern California, said the combination of worries about the economy and gasoline supplies may have exacerbated motorists' reactions.

"Once you get into that kind of negative thinking, you often have a vicious cycle going on," Perner said. "You get into sort of a protective instinct that comes out - and you go and fill up."

This protective instinct is what drove pension funds, corporations and other institutional investors to make large-scale withdrawals from U.S. money-market mutual funds earlier this month, jeopardizing the nearly $3.4 trillion industry—until the government stepped in to prop it up.

Nation

Obama, McCain give measured support for bailout



AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., walks across the tarmac at the airport in Detroit, Mich. Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008.

AMERICA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain on Sunday gingerly embraced a newly negotiated congressional deal for a $700 billion bailout of the hobbled financial industry.

"This is something that all of us will swallow hard and go forward with. The option of doing nothing is simply not an acceptable option," McCain said. Obama said he was inclined to back it "because I think Main Street is now at stake."

True to form after a week of posturing, both campaigns sought to take at least partial credit for the outcome. Obama said McCain did not deserve any pats on the back.

"Here are the facts: For two weeks I was on the phone everyday with (Treasury) Secretary (Henry) Paulson and the congressional leaders making sure that the principles that have been ultimately adopted were incorporated in the bill," Obama said in an interview on "Face the Nation" on CBS.

McCain said the latest version of the plan meets his insistence of an oversight body to monitor the treasury secretary and limits the compensation of executives of financial institutions applying for loans.

"Let's get this deal done, signed by the president, and get moving, because the real effect of this is going to restore some confidence, and get some credit out there, and get the economic system moving again, which is basically in gridlock today," McCain told "This Week" on ABC.

The measure would allow the government to buy defaulted mortgages and other distressed housing-related assets, many of them held by Wall Street banks, in an effort to keep the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression from spreading throughout the entire economy.

Kyle spreads rain, wind in Maine on way to Canada

MACHIAS, Maine (AP)—Fishermen moved boats to shelter from a rare burst of tropical weather along Maine's rugged eastern coast Sunday as a weakening Hurricane Kyle spun past on its way to Canada, delivering a glancing blow equivalent to a classic nor'easter that made locals yawn.

As darkness fell, the storm produced winds hard enough to jiggle road signs and rip early-autumn leaves from trees while lashing the Maine coast with a third straight day of heavy rain. It caused flooding that closed roads as it sped up the Bay of Fundy, which separates Maine and the Canadian province of New Brunswick from Nova Scotia.

Maine emergency responders had braced for wind gusts as high as 60 mph and waves up to 20 feet, but as the storm pushed toward the Canadian Maritime Provinces, it became clear that the state was escaping a direct hit.

"This was a run-of-the-mill storm. It had the potential to be a real problem and it all sort of went away. That shift to the east did wonders for Maine," said Michael Hinerman, director of the Washington County Emergency Management Agency, which was closing up shop Sunday night.

A hurricane watch for Maine was discontinued, but a tropical storm warning remained in effect from Stonington, on the central Maine coast at the mouth of Penobscot Bay, to Eastport on the Canadian border, the National Hurricane Center said. The Canadian Hurricane Centre issued a hurricane warning for parts of southwestern Nova Scotia, with tropical storm warnings for parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Blacks, whites show prejudices along racial divide

DETROIT (AP)—The Classic Creations barber shop sits empty, surrounded by drunks and shuttered storefronts just two blocks from the manicured lawns of Grosse Pointe Park. The contrast isn't lost on La-Var Anthony, a young barber who speaks in riddles of race, class and politics.

"What's already understood," he says without looking up from his Ebony magazine, "don't need to be explained."

But when it comes to race, what is understood? And what is misunderstood?

And how can it be that in 2008—143 years after slavery was abolished, decades after the civil rights movement—an AP-Yahoo News poll could find that racial misgivings could cost Sen. Barack Obama the election?

In search of explanations, two Associated Press reporters—one black, one white—listened to people of both races along Detroit's divides: Alter Road, which separates the city from the tony Grosse Pointes near Lake St. Clair, and 8 Mile Road, the vast northern border between a mostly black Detroit and its mostly white suburbs.

They found people of both races living just blocks apart who nonetheless spoke of each other like strangers. There was suspicion, contempt—and yet, for many, a desperate hope that Obama's candidacy might be the final step in America's long path to racial equality. For whites, their support of Democratic economic policies forces them to confront their racial prejudices.

It is here you meet decent people with much in common—both sides of 8 Mile Road are populated by blue-collar Democratic families. But many still can't get past their racial differences.

Whites say their neighbors consider blacks to be violent and solely responsible for problems in the black community.

Blacks say many of their own consider whites to be spoiled and condescending.

NYC museum ship Intrepid coming home shipshape

NEW YORK (AP)—Almost two years after being pried ignominiously from the mud by a phalanx of huffing tugboats and towed off to a shipyard for a major overhaul, the historic aircraft carrier *Intrepid* is returning home.

Freshly painted in naval "haze gray" and once again shipshape from stem to stern, the fabled survivor of Pacific war battles and five kamikaze suicide attacks will be towed up New York Harbor and slotted into its familiar Hudson River berth on Oct. 2.

The floating military and space museum will reopen to the public on Nov. 8, with a large celebration on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

"With everything else that's going on, it may seem like a pimple on an elephant but I can't tell you how excited we are," said Bill White, president of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. He spent much of the past year lining up private benefactors to help finance the ship's 22-month, $120 million restoration.

On the enclosed hangar deck, the museum will offer new exhibits and facilities for public events, along with visitor access to crew quarters and other spaces previously off limits.

The outdoor flight deck array of some 30 vintage aircraft has five additions—a pair of Soviet-designed MiG fighters, a Grumman F11F fighter that in the 1960s was part of the Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team, and two 1950s-era helicopters.

AP

The historic aircraft carrier *Intrepid* is docked at a repair facility in Bayonne, N.J., Sept. 8, 2008.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gotti arrest recalls Fla. mob history

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The ghosts of Tampa's old-time wiseguys awakened this summer when Mafia scion John "Junior" Gotti came to town in handcuffs, accused of pulling the strings in a bunch of classic mobster crimes. The federal indictment against him reads like a plot summary for "The Sopranos." The 44-year-old Gotti—son of the late "Dapper Don" of the notorious Gambino crime family—allegedly had his fingers in everything: whacking rivals, trafficking cocaine, bribery, kidnapping and money-laundering. Earlier convictions show Gambino crews have worked for years to get a foothold in the Tampa area's criminal underworld. If the charges against Gotti are true, then he was a Johnny-come-lately to organized crime around here.

Couple say home's ex-owner tried to scare them out

GAHANNA, Ohio (AP)—John and Jamie Petree couldn't believe their luck. The home they bought in this Columbus suburb was near family and quality schools. Its huge backyard promised years of afternoon fun for their 2-year-old daughter and about-to-be-born son. They spent about $25,000 on remodeling—a deck, fresh paint, new hot water tank. They planned more—but instead they installed a security system, including outdoor video cameras and door alarms. They accuse the previous owner, who had lost the house in a bank foreclosure, of trying to scare them away. Charges of menacing by stalking and other offenses involving two separate incidents were filed against Andrew Zukowski, then dropped after he was ruled mentally incompetent. Now the Petrees have moved away, ending their eight-year struggle.

Medical helicopter crashes in Md. park, killing 4

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (AP)—The pilot of a medical helicopter twice radioed for help in foggy weather before crashing Sunday, killing four of the five people on board in the latest of a growing number of air ambulance accidents, authorities said. The medical helicopter was carrying victims of a traffic accident when it went down in a suburban Washington park. It was the deadliest medevac helicopter accident in Maryland since the State Police began flying those missions nearly 40 years ago, and the eighth fatal medical helicopter crash in the last 12 months nationwide. About 30 people have died in such crashes during that period, National Transportation Safety Board member Debbie Hersman said.

Up to 7 stabbed in NYC nightclub fight, 2 critical

NEW YORK (AP)—Police say as many as seven men were stabbed during a quarrel at a nightclub in New York City. Two are in critical condition. The bloody fight erupted around 4 a.m. Sunday inside the Tahona club in the Queen's neighborhood of Astoria. Police are trying to determine the exact number of victims—from five to seven. Two of them are in critical condition at Elmhurst Hospital. The Tahona is a flashy club with state-of-the-art sound, video and lighting, featuring live bands and a big dance floor.

Asia

North Korean puzzle: Is a Kim succession emerging?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Peering through the North Korean political mist, lately thickened by Kim Jong Il's reported illness and a resurgent nuclear crisis, analysts have begun looking at the North Korean leader's brother-in-law as part of a possible succession.

But if Jang Song Taek were to emerge on top, it would likely be as the head of a collective leadership, rather than as an absolute ruler like Kim Jong Il or his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, experts in Seoul say.

They say no single person in the communist dictatorship is poised to take over as smoothly as Kim—groomed for 20 years—did after his father died in 1994. But the 62-year-old Jang, husband of Kim's younger sister, is seen as a potentially critical player.

Kim

Jang heads the administrative department of the all-powerful Workers' Party. More importantly, he oversees the intelligence agency and other military-related institutions, analysts say.

"Jang could play a key role in a collective leadership because he's someone who would be able to bond the military and the party together," said Hong Hyun-ik of the Sejong Research Institute, South Korea's security think tank.

A technocrat educated in Russia during Soviet times, Jang was a rising star until he was summarily demoted in early 2004 in what analysts believe was a warning from Kim against gathering too much influence.

But Kim got Jang back at his side in 2006.

"In such a power structure, the most reliable person is a relative," said North Korea expert Koh Yu-hwan of Seoul's Dongguk University. "He is now No. 2."

Jang's two brothers served in high-level military posts, which could give him connections to the military, Koh said.

Other senior figures in a collective leadership would likely include Defense Minister Kim Il Chol and other top military and party figures, the analysts said.

Typhoon Jangmi lashes Taiwan with torrential rains

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Typhoon Jangmi roared toward eastern China on Monday after lashing Taiwan with torrential rains and powerful winds that killed two people and injured more than 30.

Jangmi—the fourth and most powerful typhoon to hit the island this year—made landfall in Ilan county in northeastern Taiwan at mid-afternoon Sunday, the Central Weather Bureau said.

Jangmi was downgraded to a tropical storm early Monday as it moved north toward seas off eastern China, the bureau said. But offices and schools were shut down Monday because of the storm's impact, and the Taiwan stock market was closed.

At Taipei's international airport, operations resumed after being interrupted late Sunday, but it could take hours to clear up the backlog of delayed flights, airport authorities said.

Power was cut to 86,000 households as the area was hit by gusts of up to 140 mph, the highest level the bureau's equipment can measure, the weather bureau said.

The strong winds overturned a bus on a highway near the northeastern city of Ilan, injuring 36 passengers, the Disaster Relief Center said.

Outer bands of the storm continued to dump heavy rains in central and southern Taiwan Monday, with the scenic Alishan resort area recording nearly 32 inches of rain, the bureau said.

Officials said groups of Chinese tourists were turned away from Alishan, a favorite sightseeing spot for the mainlanders.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death toll from floods in Vietnam reaches 33

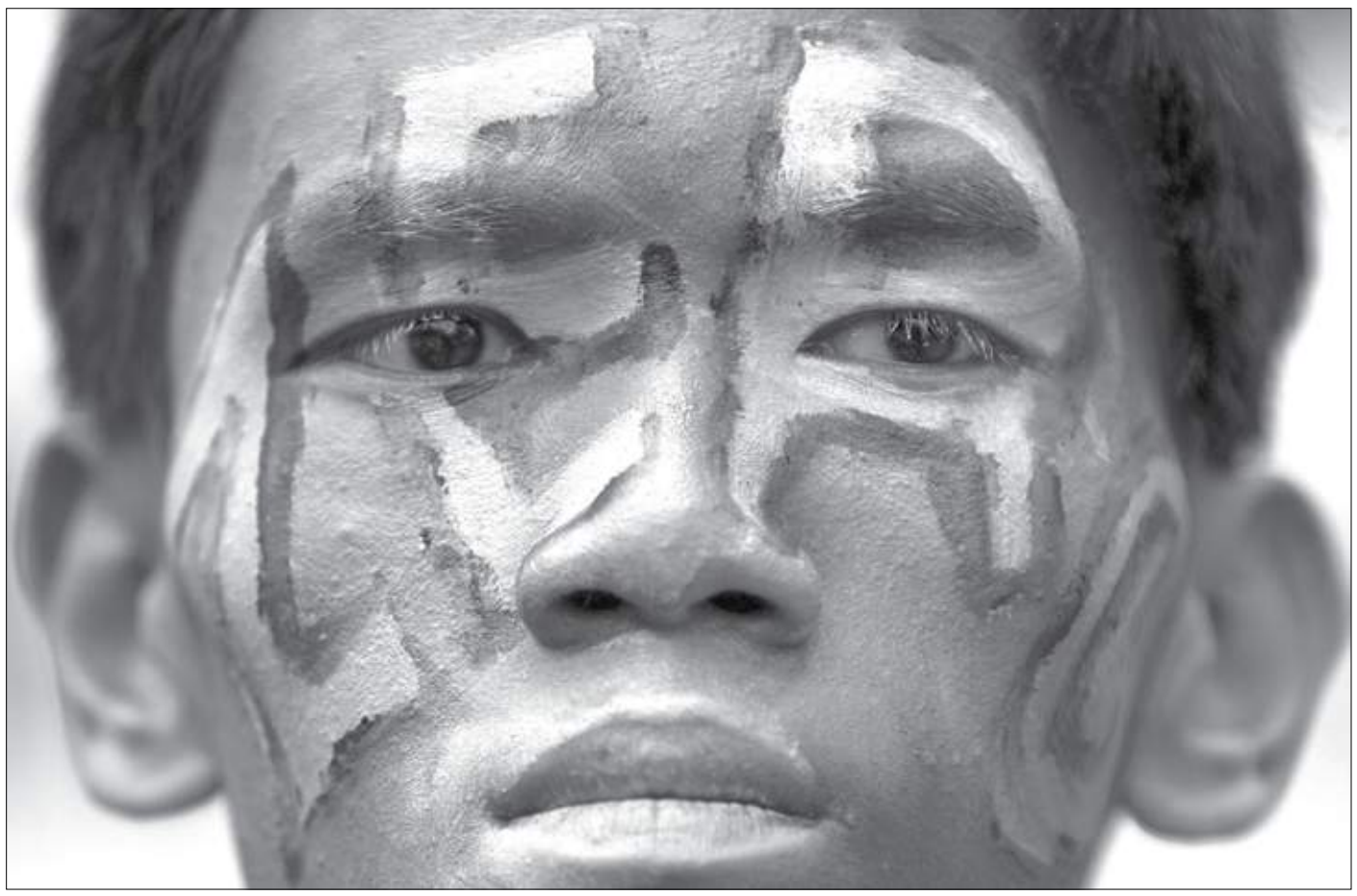
HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Floods triggered by Typhoon Hagupit have killed at least 33 people and left five others missing as rescuers struggled to provide relief aid to isolated villages, disaster officials said Sunday. In the worst-hit province of Son La, 12 people were killed in the floodwaters and two others died when their homes collapsed, said disaster official Nguyen Van Loan. Three others were reported missing. The death toll in the province could rise when access and communication is restored to villages isolated by the storm, he said. Rescue workers had to walk to reach stranded villagers with food, water and medicine, he said.

Gunmen abduct Polish engineer in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected militants seized a Polish engineer Sunday and killed his Pakistani driver, guard and assistant in the country's volatile northwest as security forces fought to take control of the border region. The recent truck bombing of Islamabad's Marriott Hotel has heightened concern about the stability of nuclear-armed Pakistan—and the safety of foreigners—as it vows to tackle rising militancy. Even before the engineer's kidnapping, the expatriate community in Pakistan was braced for possible instructions from the U.N. and foreign missions to send home family and nonessential staff. Last week, unidentified gunmen abducted the Afghan ambassador-designate to Pakistan and killed his driver in the northwestern city of Peshawar. Taliban militants have confirmed that they are holding two Chinese telecommunications engineers since the end of August.

Suicide bomb kills civilian, wounds 8 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's military says a suicide bomber has blown himself up near a vehicle carrying policemen in a northern town, killing himself and a civilian and wounding eight others. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara says separatist Tamil Tiger rebels were responsible for the attack Sunday in the town of Vavuniya. He says four police in the vehicle, three nearby soldiers and a civilian bystander were wounded. Rebel officials could not immediately be reached for comment.



FACE PAINT SAYS IT ALL AP

An activist with face paint joins a rally outside the Philippine Heart Center in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008. The demonstrators were demanding Congress to strike out the over P100 million (about US$ 2.1 million) payment for decommissioned toxic medical waste incinerators in the proposed 2009 national budget and to use the money saved to meet the people's essential needs.

China's first spacewalk team returns to Earth

BEIJING (AP)—Three Chinese astronauts emerged from their capsule Sunday after a milestone mission to carry out the country's first spacewalk, showing off China's technological know-how and cementing its status as a space power and future competitor to the United States.

A senior space official said the mission—China's most ambitious yet—took the country one step closer in its plan to build a space station and then to land a man on the moon.

Wang Zhaoyao, deputy director of manned space flight, said the program is looking to launch a new orbiting vehicle and set up a simple space lab by 2011. There are also hopes of sending unmanned and manned space vehicles to perform docking activities with the target vehicle.

By 2020, China wants to launch a manned mission to experiment with technologies that will enable astronauts to take care of spacecraft for longer periods of time, Wang told reporters at a briefing in Beijing after a parachute brought the astronauts' capsule back to ground.

"After we have successfully completed these three steps, we will go to even more remote areas," Wang said. "We believe that as long as we can make further progress on the road of science and technology, China will achieve the target of putting a manned spacecraft on the moon in the near future."

The United States is the only country to have accomplished that feat, putting its first astronaut team on the moon in 1969. But its last human landing was in 1972, and it has since concentrated on unmanned probes.

China's communist leaders, riding a wave of pride and patriotism after hosting the Olympics, face few of the public doubts or budgetary pressures that have constrained space programs elsewhere. Saturday's spacewalk was watched by cheering crowds on huge outdoor TV screens.

Taliban assassins kill ranking Afghan policewoman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two Taliban assassins on a motorbike shot and killed a senior policewoman as she left for work in Afghanistan's largest southern city Sunday and gravely wounded her son.

Malalai Kakar, 41, who led Kandahar city's department of crimes against women, was leaving home Sunday when she was killed, said Zalmai Ayubi, spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor. Her 18-year-old son was wounded, he said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility.

Militants frequently attack projects, schools and businesses run by women. The hard-line Taliban regime, which was ousted in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, did not allow women outside the home without a male escort.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the assassination, as did the European Union, which said it was "appalled by the brutal targeting" of Kakar.

"Any murder of a police officer is to be condemned, but the killing of a female officer whose service was not only to her country, but to Afghan women, to whom Ms. Kakar served as an example, is particularly abhorrent," the EU said in a statement.

Elsewhere in Kandahar province, a suicide bomber on a motorbike attacked a border police convoy in Spin Boldak district, killing three policemen and three civilians, said the regional border police chief, Abdul Razzaq.

The blast wounded 17 others, including 15 civilians and two officers, Razzaq said.

World

US ambassador appeals for patience in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker on Sunday accused Iran of trying to interfere with a new security pact between Iraq and the United States, and said Americans need to view Iraq with "a sense of strategic patience" because the stakes in the region are so high.

The 37-year veteran diplomat, interviewed by The Associated Press at his embassy in Baghdad, is in the middle of tough negotiations with Iraqi officials to define the basis for a continuing American military presence in the country beyond the end of this year.

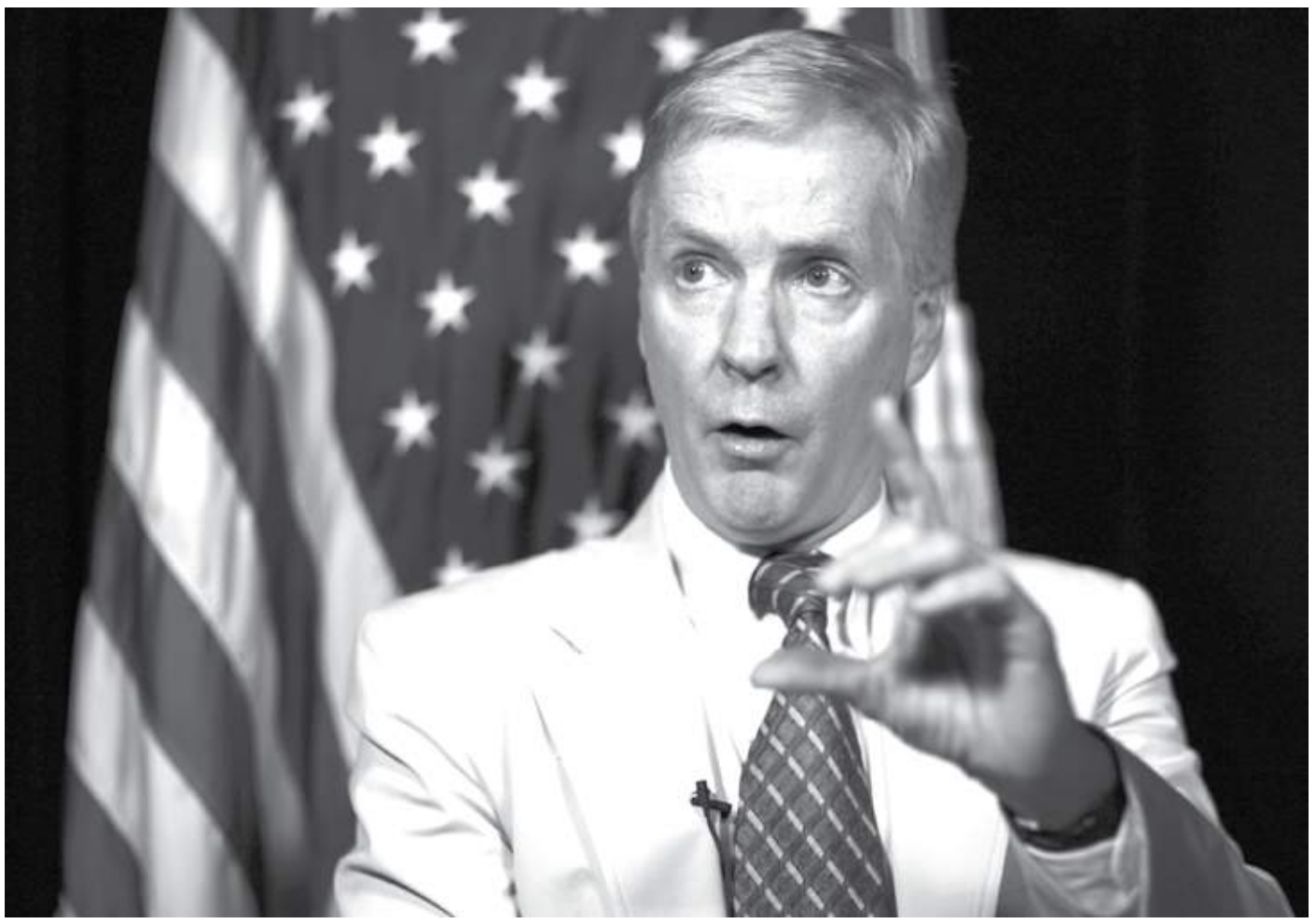
The talks hit an impasse recently and are taking place against a backdrop of increasing calls in the United States for a U.S. withdrawal and declining interest in the war itself from many members of the American public.

Crocker struck an emotional note in discussing the recent accomplishments in Iraq, including a sharp decline in violence across much of the country and some preliminary steps toward political reconciliation, such as last week's agreement to schedule provincial elections by Jan. 31.

"All Americans should be and are proud of the achievements in Iraq and the American role in bringing about the change," he said. "Iraq is in a far, far better place than it was say 18 months ago."

However, he warned, those gains could be in jeopardy if U.S. interest in the country is allowed to flag. "So I think what Americans need going forward is a sense of strategic patience," he said.

"If we decide we are tired of it, if we decide we don't want to do it anymore and that it is time to turn our attention to other things, this could all go the other way," Crocker warned. "And it is certainly my sense as someone who has served in the Middle East for the better part of three decades, that you would pay a major long-term price."



AP

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker answers a question during an interview with the Associated Press in Baghdad, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008.

Somali pirates want $20M ship ransom; crewman dies

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—As a heavily armed U.S. destroyer patrolled nearby and planes flew overhead Sunday, a Somali pirate spokesman told The Associated Press his group was demanding a $20 million ransom to release a cargo ship loaded with Russian tanks.

The spokesman also warned that the pirates would fight to the death if any country tried military action to regain the ship, and a man who said he was the ship's captain reported that one crew member had died.

Pirates seized the Ukrainian-operated ship Faina off the coast of Somalia on Thursday as it headed to Kenya carrying 33 Russian-built T-72 tanks and a substantial amount of ammunition and spare parts. The ordnance was ordered by the Kenyan government.

The guided missile destroyer USS Howard was stationed off the Somali coast on Sunday, making sure that the pirates did not remove the tanks, ammunition and other heavy weapons from the ship, which was anchored off the coast.

A spokesman for the U.S. 5th fleet said the Navy remained "deeply concerned" over the fate of the ship's 21-member crew and cargo.

In a rare gesture of cooperation, the Americans appeared to be keeping an eye on the Faina until the Russian missile frigate Neustrashimy, or Intrepid, reaches the area. The Russian ship was still in the Atlantic on Sunday, the Russian navy reported.

Olmert laments 'evil wind of extremism' in Israel

YITZHAR, West Bank (AP)—A new dynamic has emerged in the West Bank: Jewish settlers block roads, burn tires or set fire to Palestinian fields when troops try to dismantle unauthorized settlements.

Olmert

Activists call the tactic "price tag." They hope the havoc will deter Israeli security forces from removing any of the dozens of squatter camps, or outposts, dotting West Bank hills.

Coupled with recent settler reprisal raids on Palestinian villages and a pipe bomb attack that wounded a prominent settler critic, the outpost battle has revived debate about the dangers posed by ultra-nationalists.

Outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned Sunday that an "evil wind of extremism" is threatening Israel's democracy. Without naming any specific group, he complained that extremists are undermining "the ability of those in charge in Israel to make decisions."

Despite Sunday's forceful words, Olmert and his predecessors failed to live up to a 2003 promise to the U.S. to take down dozens of outposts.

No wins for Belarus opposition with most votes in

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—The opposition won no seats in Belarus parliamentary elections with most races decided, the elections commission said Monday. Opposition leaders called on the West not to recognize the results.

The opposition has alleged the vote was rigged and said the results cast doubt on authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko's commitment to democratic reform in the former Soviet republic, after his promises that Sunday's election would be free and fair.

"The dictator has shown his true face," said Anatoly Lebedko, leader of the opposition United Civil Party. "There was no election in Belarus. It was an electoral farce for the West. We call on the EU and U.S. not to recognize the results of the election."

A total of 263 candidates, including 70 from the opposition, were competing for the 110 parliamentary seats. With results from 99 of the 110 districts, the major opposition candidates were shut out, the elections commission said. None of the opposition candidates running in the remaining 11 districts are well known.

"The voter is afraid of losing what he has," Central Election Commission head Lidia Yermoshina said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Far-right parties make big gains in Austrian vote

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Austria's far-right made huge gains in Sunday's parliamentary elections in a sign voters were disenchanted with the two main political parties which governed in a coalition for the past 18 months. Many Austrians were frustrated by squabbling between the governing parties, who were viewed as ineffective and distracted from public concerns over rising inflation and other problems. Analysts said the result was not necessarily a sign voters were becoming more extremist in their views. "It's not a question of ideology," said political commentator Peter Filzmaier. "There's lots of disappointment among workers, and there are no left-oriented parties to pick up those votes and so the right-oriented parties are able to do so." A total of 183 parliamentary seats were up for grabs. If preliminary results are confirmed, the right-wing Freedom Party will have 35 seats, up from 21 after the last elections in 2006. The Alliance for the Future of Austria, led by Joerg Haider, will have 21, up from seven.

Iraqi Christians protest end to legislative quotas

BAGHDAD (AP)-Iraq's prime minister sought safeguards Sunday for small religious communities in this mainly Muslim country as Christians protested parliament's decision to stop setting aside seats for minorities on provincial councils. In Baghdad, a series of explosions struck mostly Shiite areas, killing at least 32 people and wounding nearly 100, police said. The attacks appeared aimed at reviving sectarian tensions that once threatened to plunge the nation into civil war. Parliament last week approved a new law mandating elections in most of Iraq's 18 provinces. But the law removed a system that reserved a few legislative seats for Christians and other religious minorities. Lawmakers cited a lack of census data to determine what the quotas should be. But many Christians saw the move as an effort to marginalize their community. "I think that some political groups are pushing the remaining Christians to leave Iraq," worshipper Afram Razzaq-Allah said after services at a Catholic church in Baghdad. "They want us to feel that we are no longer Iraqis."

Unofficial tally: Ecuadoreans back new charter

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Ecuadoreans on Sunday resoundingly approved a new constitution that significantly expands leftist President Rafael Correa's powers and allows him to run for two more consecutive terms, unofficial partial results showed. Voters in this oil-producing Andean nation gave the measure 63 percent backing, according to a nationwide quick count by an independent citizen's group. "We're making history! Onward!" a jubilant Correa proclaimed in his coastal hometown of Guayaquil after his crushing victory became clear. "This is confirmation of the citizen's revolution we're offering." He and the close associates who helped him craft the new document hugged each other and sang "Patria," their party anthem. Correa called on Ecuadoreans to help him "achieve a brave, sovereign and dignified homeland—equitable, just and without misery."

Overdrive

2009 DODGE RAM 1500 CREW CAB SLT

Burly, with a fuel appetite to boot

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Sometimes, you need muscle. You need a pickup truck. You need a Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT, preferably with a long cargo bed, if you can get it. If not, the short bed properly loaded will do.

Our 2009-model test truck came with the short cargo bed—five feet and seven inches long. Had we gotten one with the long cargo bed, eight feet, we could have distributed our cargo over a longer surface, thereby reducing its height. We would have gotten better mileage that way.

It's a matter of physics. Cargo stacked high in the bed of a pickup truck increases wind drag, and anything that increases wind drag sucks fuel.

In a bid to save gasoline, we opted for modest Ram muscle, choosing the pickup with the 4.7-liter, 310-horsepower V-8 over the more rambunctious model with the 5.7-liter, 390-horsepower Hemi V-8. But I'm not sure we saved anything by going with the smaller engine.

We lost mileage to wind drag—the high-stacked cargo—and our lust for options. We were carrying furniture from Virginia to our daughter Binta's home in upstate New York, where the roads can sometimes be tricky and slippery, which makes four-wheel-drive a desirable technology. Our Ram 1500 came with four-wheel drive.

The problem with that, of course, is that it usually takes more energy to drive four wheels than it does to drive two, especially if much of that driving will be uphill, which was the case on the New York end of our trip.

The upshot is that we burned regular gasoline at the disappointing rate of 15 miles per gallon on the highway, an egregious consumption accompanied by a total $225 fuel bill for a round trip of nearly 700 miles.

Sometimes, you need muscle. But, when flexing it at that price, it's easy to understand why pickup truck sales have plummeted in an era of expensive fuel.

The good news is that those falling sales, down by as much as 33 percent at Chrysler, maker of Dodge trucks, could prove a boon for people who really need pickups. Chrysler is whacking as much as 40 percent off Rams' list price.

Those steep discounts could translate to point-of-sale savings of $10,000 or more per truck, enough to support the V-8 Ram's thirst for gasoline, even at 15 miles per gallon.

But selling vehicles at discount is not a recipe for corporate profitability, nor is it necessarily a good way to win the hearts and minds of customers. Seduction in the marketplace is best effected through desirable products—for example, the development of powerful pickups that also deliver good fuel economy.

Chrysler's engineers are working hard toward that end. And there's some evidence, in the Hemi V-8 version of the Ram, for example, that they are making some progress. Even with its 80 extra horsepower, the Hemi V-8 Ram has a computerized engine-management system that might have given us better mileage—or certainly as good as what we got from the tested 4.7-liter V-8 model.

When less power is needed in the Hemi V-8, Chrysler's "multi-displacement system" automatically deactivates four of the engine's eight cylinders, saving fuel. All of the Hemi V-8's cylinders go to work whenever full power is needed.

It's a neat compromise, one worth exploring for consumers who need the power of a big V-8 engine. But if Chrysler really wants to reel in buyers who might be willing to pay premiums for Rams, the company should get to market as quickly as possible with its models that reportedly will be powered by Cummins diesel engines.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
Our Ram's power was what we needed to move our payload of 600 pounds. And perhaps we should not complain about the fuel costs of doing that work. But, alas, we wanted better.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Chrysler replaced the Ram's more-bouncy-than-thou leaf springs, giving the 2009 Ram some of the best ride and handling characteristics of any full-size pickup available.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
The Ram is one of the most intimidating, in-your-face, big pickups ever designed.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Ram is a front-engine, full-size pickup truck with body-on-frame construction. It is available with rear-wheel-drive or four-wheel-drive. Three cargo beds are available — long (8 feet); regular (six feet, four inches), and short (five feet, seven inches). There also are three available cabins: regular, Crew Cab with four side doors, and Quad Cab with rear cabin access.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
Three engines are available: a 390-horsepower, 5.7-liter Hemi V-8; the tested 310-horsepower, 4.7-liter V-8; and a 210-horsepower, 3.7-liter V-6. The 4.7-liter V-8 develops 310 horsepower at 5.65 revolutions per minute and 330 foot-pounds of torque at 3,950 revolutions per minute. It is mated to a five-speed automatic transmission.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for six people in the four-wheel-drive Crew Cab Ram. Maximum payload, the weight of what can be carried onboard, is 1,410 pounds. The pickup can be equipped to tow 8,400 pounds. Fuel capacity is 26 gallons. This one can run on regular gasoline or E85 ethanol.

MILEAGE
Nearly all mileage on this drive was accumulated on the highway, at an average of 15 miles per gallon carrying bulky loads. Highway mileage improved to 17 miles per gallon with an empty cargo bed.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes electronic stability control, four-wheel antilock brakes, side and head air bags.

PRICE
Base price on the 4.7-liter V-8 is $34,850. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $30,766. Price as tested is $39,205, including $3,455 in options (premium washable cloth seats, aluminum wheels, premium sound system, mud flaps and automatic garage opener) and a $900 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $34,707. Prices sourced from Dodge, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The Ram 1500 is one of the best full-size pickups made. Deep discounts could make it a bargain for buyers in need of big pickup power.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT during the truck's world debut at the North American International Auto Show in January. The Ram is one of the most intimidating, big pickups ever designed.

CRUISIN'

Get your car ready for fall

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

My friends over at NAPA have again sent some tips for preparing your car for autumn driving. They first advise car and truck owners to read the owners manual and follow the recommended service checkups—especially following the summer driving months.

Tires absorb the brunt of summer damage due to road trips and exposure to excessive heat. With the dog days of summer behind us, it's a good idea to check the condition of all tires, including the spare. Uneven wear, vibration or pulling to one side generally indicates a problem with the tires or the suspension system. It's a good idea to have a trusted technician properly align your tires every two years. When having your vehicle serviced, remember to rotate your tires to extend their life and assure better braking and handling.

NAPA also recommends having your service technician check the following:

■ Brakes—Common signs of deteriorating brake pads include excessive grinding, squealing and screeching.

■ Engine—Correct problems such as difficult start-ups, high idling and periodic stalling. Your vehicle will get better gas mileage, and minor problems are less likely to develop into expensive repairs.

■ Fluids—Top off all fluids, including transmission, brake, power steering, radiator coolant and windshield washers.

■ Oil and filter—Change the oil and filter based on the owners manual recommendations. Oil changes can greatly increase the life of your vehicle.

■ Interior and exterior—Summer travel means even more clutter, dust and dirt. Cleaning and vacuuming will keep your car looking new. Washing off accumulated dirt and mud will help maintain the exterior. Applying wax will preserve your car's shine and protect its surface.

To learn more about preventive maintenance for your vehicle, contact your local NAPA AutoCare Center or call 1-800-LET-NAPA.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

Newman planned for charitable legacy after death

By SUSAN HAIGH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Paul Newman broached the subject of his philanthropic legacy several years ago while fishing with friends Robert Forrester and David Horvitz off the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Even though he was a Hollywood icon—a 10-time Academy Award nominee known for his performances in such classic films as "Cool Hand Luke" and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"—it was a rare moment in which Newman reflected on how he would be remembered after his death, Horvitz recalled Sunday.

"Most of the time he didn't think about legacy," he said. "He was pretty much in the moment."

But Newman, who died Friday of cancer at age 83, told the men he wanted to be remembered for the "Hole in the Wall" camps he helped to start across the world for children with life-threatening illnesses and to make sure that 100 percent of the profits from his popular food company, Newman's Own, would continue to benefit such camps and thousands of other charities.

ON THE NET

Newman's Own: http://www.newmansown.com

Horvitz is chairman of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps, which has 11 camps across the globe. Newman told him that he had been lucky in life, born with piercing blue eyes and gift for acting, and how it was unfair that so many innocent children were unlucky to have been burdened with devastating diseases such as AIDS or leukemia.

"He felt a need and an obligation to try to give back," Horvitz said.

"He loved the camps. He loved being there. He loved being with the kids," he added. "He loved their smiles and their laughter."

In 1982, Newman and writer A.E. Hotchner started Newman's Own to market Newman's original oil-and-vinegar dressing. It began as a joke and grew into a multimillion-dollar business.

Newman and the foundation funded by his food company have given more than $250 million to charity over the years. Last year, $28 million from the sale of pasta sauces, salad dressings, popcorn and other products was distributed to a variety of social causes, including the Safe Water Network, which Newman helped start to provide safe drinking water to impoverished communities in places like India and Africa.

Until two years ago, Newman had the task of personally distributing the company's profits. But Forrester helped Newman set up a private, independent foundation, known as Newman's Own Foundation, to carry on the work without Newman.

"Really, everything is in great shape," Forrester said of the foundation and the company after Newman's death.

"He said, 'When I'm not here, this foundation is to continue the tradition of giving all of this money away,'" said Forrester, the foundation's vice chairman.

Forrester joked how such planning wasn't part of Newman's nature. A sign famously hangs in Newman's Westport, Conn., offices that reads, "If I had a plan I would be screwed."

Newman welcomed the opinions of others as he pursued the business and his philanthropic efforts. Forrester explained how the actor believed in the benefit of "creative chaos," where, as in a movie set, different people offer ideas about how a scene should be handled.

"That was Paul's enduring philosophy, and it worked," Forrester said. "It sounds awful, but it was part of Paul saying everybody had a voice."

At Forrester's request, Newman came up with what he wanted the Newman's Own company—he hated the word "brand"—to stand for. Newman listed quality food, fair labor practices, a mission focused on philanthropy and not profit, and an open environment in the workplace, not a bureaucratic one.

Forrester said that mission will continue, even though Newman is gone.

Also, his smiling face will still appear on bottles of marinade and boxes of frozen pizza, and his wife, actress Joanne Woodward, will still sit on the Newman's Own Foundation Board of Directors. Newman typically sat in on all the board meetings, with the exception of the most recent one, about a week ago.

AP

Flowers are placed on Paul Newman's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008.

Appreciation: Newman was among rare breed of star

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

Paul Newman couldn't have existed today—at least, not the way we came to know him.

Sure, the talent would have been there, the classic good looks, the magnetism, the easy charm. But the privacy he demanded (and won), which helped establish and solidify his mystique as a bona fide movie star, never would have been afforded him in our tabloid-driven, celebrity-obsessed culture.

Sad but true. Part of why we were fascinated with Newman, who died Friday at 83 of cancer, was because we didn't know every gory detail of his life, even though he'd reached the zenith of fame and popularity. He left us craving more—and that he lived and died far from Hollywood's glare in the small town of Westport, Conn., in the converted farmhouse he shared with his wife of 50 years, Joanne Woodward, speaks volumes not only about who he was but who he didn't want to be.

It's hard to think of an actor today who compares in that regard: someone who's blazingly confident on-screen but maintains some mystery about who he really is off of it, someone who would make even hardened, cynical journalists go weak in the knees upon meeting face-to-face. Newman's longtime friend and co-star, Robert Redford, certainly qualifies. But of the current generation of stars? We know too much about Tom Cruise. Will Smith? Leonardo DiCaprio? Johnny Depp, maybe—though he's carved out a path of quirky character roles, despite his leading-man looks.

George Clooney springs to mind, but even he has fought public battles with the paparazzi over the need to respect celebrities' privacy. Clooney himself seemed to recognize the legacy Newman left in reacting to his death Saturday morning: "He set the bar too high for the rest of us ... not just actors, but all of us. He will be greatly missed," he said—through his publicist.

AP

In this 1968 file photo released by Warner Bros., actor Paul Newman played a prisoner who becomes a legend to his fellow members of a chain gang in the film "Cool Hand Luke."

Larger than life? Sure. But looking back at Newman's career, which encompassed nearly 60 feature films over the past half-century, it's the range that leaves an impression. You never forgot you were watching Paul Newman. He was a superstar, after all. He was the draw. But he could fit into a wide variety of parts—unlike some other actors with longevity and stature, who shall remain nameless for these purposes, who have devolved into caricatures of themselves as they've aged.

In just a sampling, Newman played:

■ A washed-up football player in Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958).

■ Pool shark "Fast Eddie" Felson in "The Hustler" (1961), the role he would reprise in "The Color of Money" (1986), which, surprisingly, earned him his only Academy Award in 10 nominations.

■ A bad-boy cowboy in "Hud" (1963).

■ A rebellious prisoner in "Cool Hand Luke" (1967).

■ A train robber alongside Redford, iconically, in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969).

■ The player-coach of a small-town hockey team in the comedy cult favorite "Slap Shot" (1977).

■ A wrongly accused suspect in a rare film that gets journalism right, "Absence of Malice" (1981).

■ A cantankerous grandfather in "Nobody's Fool" (1994).

■ A formidable mob boss in "Road to Perdition" (2002).

Newman came up in the Method-acting tradition, a la Brando, but there was never anything obviously studied about him; he made the swagger look natural. And his evolution over the years—from young and dangerous to middle-aged and struggling to older and wiser—constantly carried with it the aura of dignity.

"His powerful eloquence, his consummate sense of craft, so consummate that you didn't see any sense of effort up there on the screen, set a new standard," said Martin Scorsese, who directed him in "The Color of Money."

Newman himself didn't enjoy talking about acting, and could come off as a bit distant in interviews when asked about it. He did offer some insight to his motivation, however, in 2002:

"I used to make three pictures a year, and now I make a picture every three years. Things change. There have been a lot of good things out there, but they weren't the kind of pictures that I wanted to make. I didn't want to do pictures about explosions. I don't want to do pictures about shattered glass and broken bodies and blood. That just doesn't interest me."

Of course, we came to understand what interested him through his off-camera pursuits later in life. His passion came shining through in his love of, and talent for, auto racing. But it's through his philanthropy—the Newman's Own Foundation, which has raised more than $250 million for charities worldwide, and the Hole in the Wall Camps for children with life-threatening diseases—that he showed his true heart.

Maybe Paul Newman wasn't so hard to figure out after all.

Kathy Griffin, moving up the celebrity ladder

By TERESA WILTZ
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THE WASHINGTON POST
"I'm having A-list moments lately," says Kathy Griffin, whose reality show, "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List," remains one of Bravo TV's most popular shows and has brought her two Emmys in 13 months. Griffin is photographed in Washington.

WASHINGTON—Kathy Griffin, the comic queen of red-carpet fabulousness, is puttering about her Ritz-Carlton Georgetown suite, all bare feet and flowered flannel PJ bottoms. It's late afternoon, and there's no hair and makeup dude performing her maquillage as she readies for the evening's show in Richmond, Va. As she crows over her Emmy win days earlier, Griffin painstakingly applies individual lashes to her big baby blues.

There will be no limo awaiting downstairs to whisk her to the theater. It'll be just her and Tom Vize, her long-suffering chief assistant humping it to the venue in a rental car. Nearly three hours in rush-hour traffic. And because she gets carsick, she typically does the driving.

This is not life on the D-list, but rather life when a longtime D-lister is fairly swiftly upgraded to at least B-plus status—yet the same old luggage is still in tow.

Since last year, Griffin's celeb-snarking, bottom-feeder routine has seemed to board a freight elevator to the penthouse. Last fall, she sold out the Kennedy Center. Three seasons in, her reality show, "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List," remains one of Bravo TV's most popular shows—and has brought her two Emmys in 13 months. And as she begins a three-night stand this week at DAR Constitution Hall, she's got the fervid love and devotion of a core Bravo demographic: The folks whom she affectionately refers to as "my gays."

Griffin, 47, is not willing to scratch her name off the D-list just yet. "You are welcome to walk through any airport with me," she says, "where someone will ask me, `What's your name again?' Just when I think I've jumped lists, there's always something to smash me down." But ...

There's a massive bouquet of flowers from fellow insult comic Don Rickles, with whom she presented an award at the Primetime Emmys on Sunday, in her very-first-ever "real" Emmys appearance. (Her award for outstanding reality TV show was handed out Sept. 13 at the Creative Arts Emmys ceremony, which she calls the "Schmemmys.") There's a note with the flowers, a note that sends her over the moon:

Dear Kathy:

I was so proud to share the stage with you. You're not only a brilliant comedian but a beautiful gal to know.

Love,

Don

P.S. (Barbara sends her love.)

"Tom!" Griffin calls out to Vize. "Let's call Don to say thank you!" The call is dutifully put through, except that the number Rickles gave them is ... a fax. Griffin, never one to pass up fertile comic fodder, seizes this would-be slight as proof of her perpetual wannabe status. "He gave me the wrong number on purpose! How will I ever get in touch with him now?"

As it turns out, Rickles is reachable. His people are on the phone, apologizing for providing the wrong number. And once again, Griffin is robbed of a chance to trumpet her role as Queen of the Losers.

All this is tricky business: making a living skewering celebrities when your own celebrity is on the rise.

"I'm having A-list moments lately," Griffin admits. Then comes another confession: Backstage at the Emmys, she asked Rickles, "How do you maintain friendships with celebrities when they don't want you to put them in your act?" She figured he should know, since he claims Bob Newhart as a close friend, among other big names. His advice: You can't be friends with someone and have "some kind of agreement" to keep them out of the act. Anything is fair game—which works for her. "I'm not disciplined enough to keep my mouth shut," she says.

The Griffin mouth famously lobs insults at the pretty and the pretentious. She spares no one—whether they look divine or are worshiped as divine. (Her famous 2007 Emmy acceptance speech, when she mocked Jesus, caused a notable brouhaha.) Oprah Winfrey is both her obsession and her target. ("I am totally supportive of her and her boyfriend Gayle.") Lindsay Lohan is a frequent source of material—Griffin comments on her lesbian relationship ("I love Lesbian Lindsay. She didn't go `lipstick' "). And then there's her nemesis, Ryan Seacrest, with whom she jousted at the Creative Arts Emmys: "You are the devil," she told him, abruptly ending the interview by calling him a "man-whore."

"Hollywood is like high school," she says. "The celebrities I make fun of are pretty much the mean cheerleaders in high school, or the mean jocks."

Griffin grew up conflicted in a family of alcoholics in suburban Chicago. (Because of that, she says, she has never taken a drink in her life.) The nuns in elementary school did damage, she says, but that was nothing compared with the mean girls in high school. She is the ugly duckling turned surgically enhanced swan. No, she can't wait for her high school reunion next month—and yes, she will be bringing her Emmy with her. So there.

She started doing improv with the Groundlings comedy troupe in Los Angeles, then moved to the little screen, with guest spots on "ER" and "Seinfeld" before landing a recurring role on the Brooke Shields sitcom "Suddenly Susan." Along the way, she did the occasional HBO comedy special and four specials for Bravo.

It was in the world of reality TV and its quasi-truth, though, that she found her true calling. She won the competition show "Celebrity Mole," then landed hosting gigs with the NBC reality series "Average Joe" and the MTV series "Kathy's So-Called Reality."

In 2005, "D-List" was launched. Living under the constant surveillance of a TV crew was at times more than she bargained for: She married and divorced; her father died last year; and she struggles with her aging mom, Maggie.

"I never thought I'd get divorced," she says, "and I never thought I'd get divorced on TV."

But all in all, she's "having a ball." She'd like to create a small Kathy Griffin empire, with a late-night talk show and comedy specials. And after multiple excursions to the land of plastic surgery, she says she is done with that for good. Overhauling her looks didn't make her any happier—she didn't turn into Jennifer Aniston, she says, so what was the point?

In Richmond, the Landmark Theater is a packed house. Griffin runs onstage, and her rabid fans are on their feet.

"I won my second Emmy," she tells the audience to wild applause. "Just the (revenge) factor is huge." Or not so much, she says, adding that she was only up against "Extreme Makeover," "Antiques Roadshow" and "Intervention."

As the night wears on, all her stream-of-consciousness riffing ventures further out onto the comedic ledge. Offensiveness is her stock in trade; she doesn't want to alienate the hands that feed her. So she throws out a zinger about Michelle Obama, just to see.

She pauses. Cocks an eyebrow. Waits. The crowd roars its approval.

"I test the audience," she says, "to see if you'll go down in flames with me."

Quotations by Paul Newman

Quotations from Paul Newman from The Associated Press archives:

■ ■ ■

"The light that you think you emanate is not necessarily the light that other people see. You think of yourself as a shy, retiring whatever it is, and some other people will see you in an entirely different way. ... You have to constantly learn. Obviously, you have to start with some kind of gift, but people don't understand that. ... I don't have a gift for anything. I've only had a gift of pursuit."—1990.

■ ■ ■

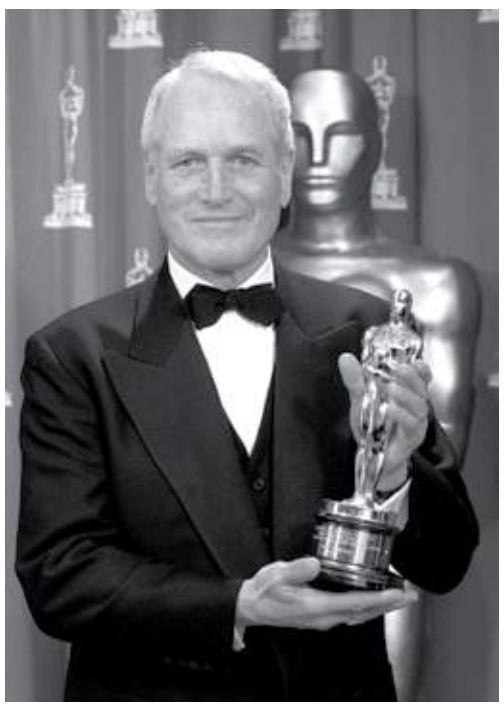
"I remember a speech I did at a graduation. I was saying how you spend your whole life trying to get 'it' and you never know what the 'it' is. You want to connect somehow, to be in touch, and this business is terrible because it encourages you to create that protective wall. Otherwise, you get eaten alive."—1994.

■ ■ ■

"There aren't many jobs you do where you do your work and people criticize you in print and on television about it. 'He's really off. He shouldn't do that.' ... They praise me, too, but that can be just as bad."—1994.

■ ■ ■

"I didn't seek out those (anti-hero) roles. They're probably written better. ... Maybe it's because the writers, good writers try to choose people who are loners or are anti-heroes for characters. You can probably find some good



connection between that and their own writing talent."—1994.

■ ■ ■

"I've been trying to quit almost everything I do for the last 10 years, and I've managed to quit absolutely nothing. ... I was going to give up my race team, I was going to quit racing. I was going to quit films. I was going to turn the salad-dressing business over to somebody else. And get out of politics. And unfortunately, I'm busier now than before."—2002.

■ ■ ■

"I used to make three pictures a year, and now I make a picture every three years. Things change. There have been a lot of good things out there, but they weren't the kind of pictures that I wanted to make. I didn't want to do pictures about explosions. I don't want to do pictures about shattered glass and broken bodies and blood. That just doesn't interest me."—2002.

■ ■ ■

On his longevity: "Luck. ... Genetics is luck. Appearance is luck ... being born in the United States."—1999.

■ ■ ■

On working with Robert Redford on "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Sting": "We were lucky. We did two almost perfect films together. And to try to maintain that special quality is pretty tough."—1999.

■ ■ ■

On continuing acting or not: "There's a lot of stuff floating around, but I don't like to talk about it until it's in cement. I think I'd like to make one more film and then take a powder. It's time Joanne and I spent quality time together."—2005.

■ ■ ■

On his Newman's Own food business: "I got into the theater because I was running away from the sporting goods business. I could never understand the romance of it - I mean, of any (retail) business. ... Now that I'm in this business, I understand the allure of market share, and killing the opposition. ... Yes, I'm very competitive."—1999.

■ ■ ■

On auto racing: "Young (drivers) think about winning. I think about whether I'm going to have a pulse. ... When you get older and older, you start slowing down. Everything is off one-50th of 1 percent. Your eyes are a little off, your reflexes, touch - everything. You multiply that by just a factor of 1 percent, that's two or three seconds a lap."—1990.

■ ■ ■

"I don't regret anything. It came at the right time. I was getting bored acting. ...You become passionate about one thing, it leads back into something else. If you can gain a sense of passion and commitment in your life in one arena, it's bound to bleed back into other arenas. ... In all the things I started to attack - football, tennis - I had no gift for it at all. I had no gift for racing, either. It's just something that I really wanted to do."—1990.

'Eagle Eye' soars to No. 1 at box office with $29M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf's conspiracy thriller "Eagle Eye" debuted at the top of the weekend box office with $29.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Paramount-DreamWorks release was the second No. 1 premiere for LaBeouf and director D.J. Caruso, who also teamed on 2007's hit "Disturbia."

Opening in second place with $13.6 million was another reunion, the Warner Bros. romantic drama "Nights in Rodanthe" featuring "The Cotton Club" and "Unfaithful" co-stars Richard Gere and Diane Lane.

The previous weekend's top flick, Sony's thriller "Lakeview Terrace," slipped to No. 3 with $7 million, raising its 10-day total to $25.7 million.

The Samuel Goldwyn release "Fireproof," a Christian drama starring Kirk Cameron as a firefighter who turns to God to help save his marriage, premiered in fourth-place with $6.5 million.

AP

In this image released by Paramount Pictures and Dreamworks, Shia LaBeouf, left, and Michelle Monaghan star as two unsuspecting Americans drawn into a mysterious conspiracy in the race-against-time thriller "Eagle Eye."

"Eagle Eye" helped pull Hollywood out of the box-office doldrums that have lingered the last two months. The top 12 movies took in $87.8 million, up 15 percent from the same weekend last year.

"You put a summer-style movie in the heart of the fall, and you can take advantage of the marketplace," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

Spike Lee's World War II drama "Miracle at St. Anna" opened weakly with $3.5 million, coming in at No. 9. The Disney release features Derek Luke in a saga of four soldiers from an all-black unit stuck behind enemy lines in Italy.

Two other movies—Fox Searchlight's "Choke" and Lionsgate's "The Lucky Ones"—opened in narrower release of about 400 theaters each, compared to 3,510 cinemas for "Eagle Eye."

"Choke," starring Sam Rockwell and Anjelica Huston in a quirky tale of a sex addict who feigns choking in restaurants to get money for his mom's psychiatric care, opened outside the top 10 with $1.3 million.

"The Lucky Ones," a road trip tale among three Iraq War veterans (Tim Robbins, Michael Pena and Rachel McAdams), bombed with just $208,000.

"Eagle Eye" stars LaBeouf and Michelle Monaghan as strangers hurled together in an escalating series of politically motivated adventures, their lives controlled by a mysterious female voice directing their actions through technology.

"The conceit of the film is intriguing to all," said DreamWorks spokesman Chip Sullivan. "Between GPS, employee codes, bank PIN numbers, this could conceivably be within the realm of possibility within a few years."

The movie secures LaBeouf's position as a steady box-office draw. His other credits include "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" and "Transformers," along with the latter's upcoming sequel.

"Nights in Rodanthe" features Gere and Lane as strangers who fall for each other over a weekend at a secluded inn as a hurricane approaches.

The romance made for good counterprogramming to the action-oriented "Eagle Eye," said Warner Bros. general sales manager Jeff Goldstein. Female movie-goers made up three-fourths of the audience for "Nights in Rodanthe," he said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. ***"Eagle Eye,"*** $29.2 million.
2. ***"Nights in Rodanthe,"*** $13.6 million.
3. ***"Lakeview Terrace,"*** $7 million.
4. ***"Fireproof,"*** $6.5 million.
5. ***"Burn After Reading,"*** $6.2 million.
6. ***"Igor,"*** $5.5 million.
7. ***"Righteous Kill,"*** $3.803 million.
8. ***"My Best Friend's Girl,"*** $3.8 million.
9. ***"Miracle at St. Anna,"*** $3.5 million.
10. ***"Tyler Perry's the Family That Preys,"*** $3.2 million.

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Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Jerry Shaw and Rachel Holloman are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations—using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move. As the situation escalates, these two ordinary people become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must work together to discover what is really happening.

Nights in Rodanthe

Friday		4:00	7:10	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Richard Gere, Diane Lane
Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Adrienne Willis, a woman with her life in chaos, retreats to the tiny coastal town of Rodanthe, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to tend to a friend's inn for the weekend. Here she hopes to find the tranquility she so desperately needs to rethink the conflicts surrounding her—a wayward husband who has asked to come home, and a teenaged daughter who resents her every decision. Almost as soon as Adrienne gets to Rodanthe, a major storm is forecast and Dr. Paul Flanner arrives.

House Bunny

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Shelley Darlington, a Playboy Bunny, is living a carefree life until a rival gets her tossed out of the Playboy Mansion. With nowhere to go, fate delivers her to the sorority girls from Zeta Alpha Zeta. Unless they can sign a new pledge class, the seven socially clueless women will lose their house to the scheming girls of Phi Iota Mu. In order to accomplish their goal, they need Shelley to teach them the ways of makeup and men; at the same time, Shelley needs some of what the Zetas have—a sense of individuality.

★ ★ ★

Righteous Kill

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Action, Drama • Rated R

Disaster Movie

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:15	

Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Bangkok Dangerous

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:50
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

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Scarlett Johansson, Ryan Reynolds marry in Canada

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scarlett Johansson and Ryan Reynolds did a little rushing into it after all. The couple married this weekend, according to publicist Meredith O'Sullivan. She did not provide details.

Us Weekly reported on its Web site Sunday that the small wedding took place at a resort outside Vancouver, British Columbia. Guests included Scarlett's mother, Melanie Sloan, and her brother, Adrian Johansson, the magazine said.

The couple announced their engagement in May.

"We're just enjoying our time," the actress said last month. "We're just recently—very recently—engaged. So, you know, we're just taking it easy. And no big plan yet. But it's a good time and we're just ... enjoying our time to be young and engaged.

"I mean, I'm 23. There's no reason to rush into it. Everything feels very natural and relaxed."

Johansson most recently starred in the Woody Allen film "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." Reynolds starred on the TV show "Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place" and the romantic comedy "Definitely, Maybe."

AP

In this Oct. 15, 2007 file photo, actress Scarlett Johansson arrives at Elle magazine's 14th Annual Women in Hollywood tribute in Los Angeles.

Heather Locklear arrested in Calif. on DUI count

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP)—Heather Locklear was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of a controlled substance in the upscale Santa Barbara area, authorities said Sunday.

Locklear, 47, was pulled over by a California Highway Patrol officer Saturday afternoon after a resident reported seeing the actress leaving a parking lot and "driving erratically," patrol spokesman Tom Marshall said.

The officer noticed Locklear's car parked on a state highway and blocking a lane in Montecito, a wealthy community about 90 miles northwest of Los Angeles. She was believed to be alone in the car, Marshall said.

"In talking with her, (the officer) determines that she seems to be under the influence of something," Marshall said.

Locklear was taken to the police station, where she was tested for alcohol and drugs. She was booked at 7 p.m. on suspicion of driving under the influence of prescription medication. She was later released from custody.

Calls to Locklear's publicists were not immediately returned.

Locklear's TV credits include "T.J. Hooker," "Dynasty," "Melrose Place" and "Spin City," and her film roles include "The Perfect Man" and "Uptown Girls."

Locklear checked into a medical clinic in June to seek treatment for anxiety and depression.

Last year, she got a divorce from Bon Jovi guitarist Richie Sambora after 11 years of marriage. They have a daughter, Ava Elizabeth.

AP

Actress Heather Locklear is shown in this photograph released by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept. Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008, in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Nicholas Sparks' love affair with romance

By ELLEN MCCARTHY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Nicholas Sparks is giddy.

The movie rights to his next book were just sold to Disney, which plans to use the film as not-a-girl, not-yet-a-woman transition project for Miley Cyrus. (Remember how that kinda-sorta worked for Mandy Moore in "A Walk to Remember"?)

The name of the new book?

"I don't have a title," the 42-year-old author giggles from his perch on a Ritz-Carlton couch in Georgetown. "I don't have a title—it's okay."

Forget the title; Sparks doesn't have a book yet. Not a first chapter, not a first letter of a first sentence.

Disney bought a blank page, an idea and a pledge from Sparks that he'll spend a few months working his swooning magic for Ms. Cyrus.

Anyway, consider it done!

You probably know the drill as well as he does by now: earnest characters, feverish love, inevitable heartache. A pack of tissues, plus a gallon of sweet, syrupy romance.

It worked in "The Notebook" and "Message in the Bottle." And it's the same formula Sparks mixes in "Nights in Rodanthe," his latest novel to be splashed onto the big screen, this time concocting a middle-age affair starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane.

Film critics might hate it. The literary sort often despise his books, when they bother to pick them up at all.

And that couldn't matter any less to Sparks, who has penned 14 works in 13 years; who has created for himself a direct line from New Bern, N.C., to Hollywood; whose fans drool at the prospect of a new release and happily wait hours to meet him at book signings. (They'll have their next fix with "The Lucky One," which hits stores Tuesday.)

Sappy sells, and Sparks is its biggest, most compelling peddler.

Long way to come for a guy who was selling pharmaceuticals when he was 28. Sparks was a track star at Notre Dame and a bit adrift after that. He decided to give writing a real shot and started with the story of his wife's grandparents. It took six months to finish. That novel, "The Notebook," landed on The New York Times bestseller list and stayed there for more than a year.

The others have poured forth quickly ever since. All of them about love.

AP

Nicholas Sparks at the Premiere of Warner Bros. Pictures romantic drama, "A Walk to Remember."

Why not branch out? Aim higher? Try a different genre?

"I really like to be good at what I do," he explains. "Could I write another type of book? Probably. Could I do it better than anyone? That I don't know."

When Sparks talks of his craft (spinning tales of passion and pain), he puts himself in the same category as Sophocles, Shakespeare and Hemingway. This is hard stuff, he insists.

"To make your characters universal, so everybody can feel like they know them ... and to make it original, it's incredibly hard," he says.

He's not ashamed to say he thinks he "can write dramatic fiction with the best of them."

Incidentally, "The Notebook" is being put into Cliffs Notes, Sparks excitedly mentions: " `The Notebook' is now an American classic! Isn't that wild?"

Sparks, a taut man with closely cropped hair, is prone to exuberance. He's a father of five who exercises for 90 minutes a day, trains his beloved working dog and coaches the local track team. (Several athletes he trained credit him in a New York Times story with saving them from a life of crime or failure.)

He hears constantly from folks who, having read his novels—some of them told from a female perspective—can't believe he's not a woman.

"That's a very nice compliment in a way," he says. "In fact it makes me feel pretty good in that I'm capturing a female's voice and thoughts fairly accurately."

How is he able to do that? "You got me. I don't know any author who can honestly answer that. The ability to create is one of those magical things," he says. "It's a gift, I suppose. A gift I'm borrowing for a little while."

But there's a logic to Sparks' system, too. In each book he tries to differ slightly the demographics of the characters, their circumstances and the note on which the story will end. (Generally alternating between bittersweet and tragic.) In "Rodanthe," for instance, he sets up a love story between two recently separated baby boomers trapped in a romantic seaside B&B during a hurricane.

Once Sparks has a story in mind, he writes 2,000 words a day, three or four days a week, in his New Bern home office from 9:30 to 3:30, with lots of breaks and time for lunch.

"Sixteen, 20 weeks and I'm done," he says with a shrug.

Even experienced moms can be surprised by pregnancy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a nurse, writing in response to the letter from "Flabbergasted Parents in New Mexico" (July 19). I have worked in small community hospitals and in the emergency rooms of trauma centers in larger cities. Over the years, I have seen many young ladies in their early 20s come into the ER with abdominal pain. When asked if there is a "possibility" that they could be pregnant, they say no. Even after a pelvic exam, when they are being taken up to labor and delivery, they deny they are having a baby.

This is like a pseudo-pregnancy, where the person thinks she is pregnant and has all the symptoms but isn't, in REVERSE. In their minds, these ladies feel that the possibility of pregnancy is not an option—so mind-over-matter takes over.

"Taryn," the girl in the letter, was probably not lying. She just could not face the truth until her baby actually came. Our bodies are amazing vehicles when you think about it.

TRISHA IN NORTH BALTIMORE, OHIO

DEAR TRISHA: And so are our minds, apparently. I have a stack of mail on my desk verifying the fact that it's not unheard of for a woman to carry a baby well into pregnancy—and even to term—without knowing she's pregnant. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As an RN, I have seen this happen several times. Most interesting was a middle-aged mother of two teenagers. Because both had been delivered by scheduled C-section, she had never experienced labor pains.

She had always been "chubby" and had been premenopausal with irregular periods for some time. She thought she had finally entered menopause and that the strange sensations she had been experiencing for the past few months were just "gas." Now she was truly scared, thinking the pain she was experiencing meant something was dreadfully wrong.

She and her husband were shocked at the diagnosis—a full-term pregnancy in active labor! Needless to say, she was taken to surgery for another C-section.

RN IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: In late November of 1964, I went to my M.D. with a horrible backache. I'd had my periods all along and no abdominal discomfort. After examining me, he congratulated me on my near-term pregnancy!

Needless to say, I was caught off guard and questioned the diagnosis. My daughter was born two months later. You could call it the shortest pregnancy ever.

By the way, I'm a nurse and have seen this happen more than once.

SHERRY IN NEVADA

DEAR ABBY: I had my period the whole nine months. I only learned I was pregnant at seven months because I passed out. I also know of an OB nurse who didn't know she was pregnant until she delivered. (Boy, was SHE surprised!)

If the girl in that letter got pregnant because of rape or sexual abuse, she may have blocked the memory of it happening. As for not knowing what was happening during and after delivery—if she had blocked out the traumatic event, then she may have blocked out the birth process as well.

FUTURE COUNSELOR IN SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I worked for a school of medicine in the Southwest for seven years, and I was amazed at the number of women who had no idea they were pregnant or how it had happened. Sadly, there are still groups of people out there who don't discuss sex, and the consequences of unprotected sex, with their children. Unlikely as it seems, that poor girl may have been telling the truth when she said she "didn't know what was going on." Hopefully, she will now become better educated about such things.

CONNIE IN COLORADO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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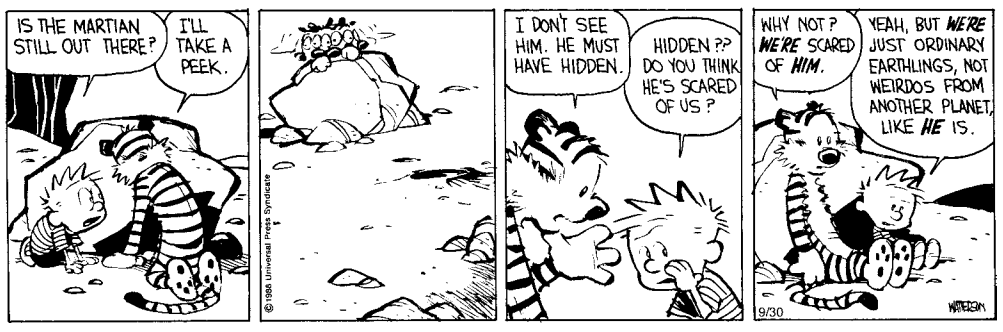
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IS THE MARTIAN STILL OUT THERE?
I'LL TAKE A PEEK.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
I DON'T SEE HIM. HE MUST HAVE HIDDEN.
HIDDEN ?? DO YOU THINK HE'S SCARED OF US ?
WHY NOT ? WE'RE SCARED OF HIM.
YEAH, BUT WE'RE JUST ORDINARY EARTHLINGS, NOT WEIRDOS FROM ANOTHER PLANET, LIKE HE IS.
9/30
WATTERSON

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By Jim Davis

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YOU'LL HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC
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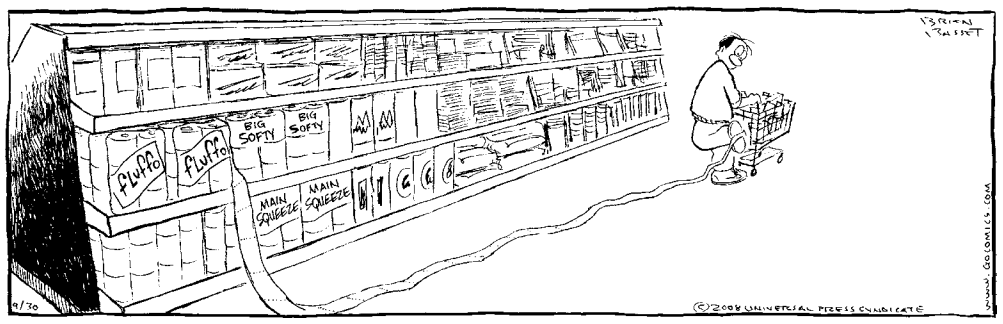
JIM DAVIS 9-30

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS IDENTITY THEFT THING IS PRETTY SCARY.
YEAH. I'M A VICTIM OF THAT.
DID YOU NOTIFY THE Police ?
NO.
IT'S FUNNY BUT SINCE MY IDENTITY WAS STOLEN, MY CREDIT HAS ACTUALLY IMPROVED.
9-30

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

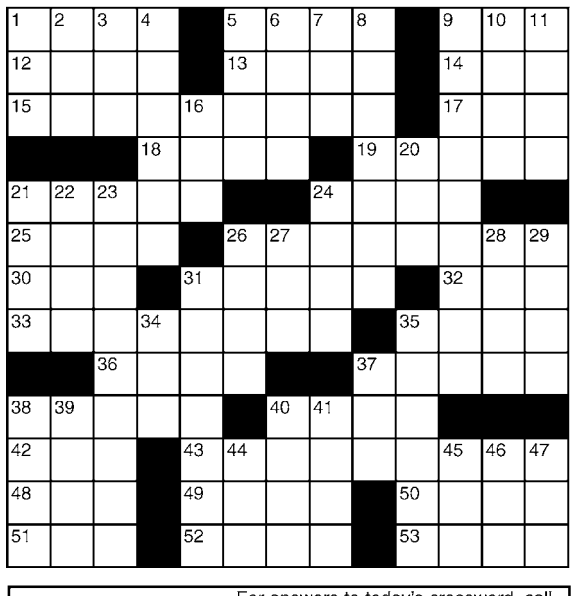
ACROSS
1 Hardly exciting
5 Moist
9 Society newcomer
12 Grooving on
13 Lotion additive
14 Under the weather
15 Retail-chain founder
17 — Zedong
18 Sandwich cookie
19 Representative
21 Misbehave
24 Soon, in verse
25 Comedian Sahl
26 "You Send Me" singer
30 World-wide workers' grp.
31 Strange
32 Churchill's gesture
33 Golf legend
35 Sense
36 Hairless
37 Vends
38 Dreaded bacterium
40 Take to the lake
42 Moving truck
43 British officer with an eponymous belt
48 — out a living
49 Verifiable
50 Approach
51 In medias —
52 Hollywood locations
53 Safecracker

DOWN
1 Insult
2 Geneticist's abbr.
3 $ dispenser
4 Withdraw
5 Earnhardt of NASCAR
6 Saxophone range
7 Cattle call?
8 Sinner's self-abasement
9 Melodramatic paperback of yore
10 Verve
11 Rorschach picture
16 Dadaist Jean
20 Stickum
21 Writer Kingsley
22 Pop flavor
23 Brass instruments
24 Surrounded by
26 Progeny
27 Coach Parseghian
28 Carina
29 Morays, e.g.
31 Signs up
34 Bando of baseball
35 Crime
37 Round Table address
38 Eternally
39 Birthday party must-have
40 Pornography
41 Lincoln and Vigoda
44 Exist
45 Teeny
46 Gripe constantly
47 Work unit

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	A	B	S	■	R	E	M	■	I	L	L	S
A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A	■	B	A	I	L
M	I	N	O	T	A	U	R	■	I	D	E	A
■	■	■	L	I	S	■	T	I	D	Y	U	P
G	R	A	D	S	■	F	I	R	E	■	■	■
I	O	N	S	■	M	I	N	I	M	U	M	■
G	A	T	■	B	O	X	E	S	■	S	E	A
■	M	I	N	A	R	E	T	■	H	E	M	S
■	■	■	A	R	T	S	■	K	U	D	O	S
K	A	B	U	K	I	■	A	I	R	■	■	■
E	W	E	S	■	M	I	N	E	R	A	L	S
L	O	N	E	■	E	L	E	V	A	T	O	R
P	L	E	A	■	R	O	W	■	Y	E	T	I

Yesterday's answer 9-30



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kieran Culkin, 26; Lacey Chabert, 26; Jenna Elfman, 37; Marty Stuart, 50

Happy Birthday: Emotional issues will rise to the surface this year. Don't procrastinate—action will be your only recourse. Show that you are a strong contender and leader. Establish your position, be precise in your delivery and don't waffle. Success will be based on how in sync you are with your plans. Your numbers are 7, 15, 17, 29, 34, 44, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Relationships will take more time and effort if you want things to run smoothly. Arguing will not lead to any sort of resolution. Helpful advice will come from someone who has known you a long time. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can count on your friends. Don't go overboard with your plans. Keep things simple. A short trip or group get-together will lead to accomplishment and knowledge through the process of working with others. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be an expert speaker as usual but you won't be able to fool others with your rhetoric for long. Relay facts and provide proof. Use your Gemini charm but be upfront as well. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do something special for the ones you love. Put a little creative thought into how you can make self-improvements that will lead to a better life, solid partnerships and greater comfort. Arguing will lead to sorrow. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Show your strength of character and refuse to let anyone take advantage of your generous nature. If you are trying to impress someone by agreeing, you will probably give the wrong impression. If you have a dispute, talks will be the only way out. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Check out what everyone else is doing before you make a decision or a move. Consider applying for an interesting position that becomes available. Spending time with younger or older family members will build a closer relationship. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let personal indiscretions stand in the way of your productivity. Put everything you've got into getting ahead. Don't let someone from your past disrupt your life or cost you financially. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional mind games will cause confusion. Be ready to make a move or change quickly in order to avoid getting in the middle of someone else's problems. Don't assume anything or react to what you are told until you have all the facts. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get involved in a cause you believe in. This is a perfect time for give-and-take. Take the first step and be a good will ambassador. Your talents will be noticed and offers will come your way. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't chat about what you want to do, take action and turn your idea into something tangible.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Past acquaintances can disrupt your life if you let them in on too many of your secrets. Keep your distance from anyone likely to steal your spot. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's time to set the record straight with someone you love and take your rightful position in the family. If the conditions you are living under are making you anxious or costing you emotionally, financially or physically, you must move on. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may be the one who isn't reading the legal documents correctly. It's a must that you take care of health issues, tests, settlements or legal matters quickly so you can move on to something more stimulating. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a polite and diplomatic way of dealing with others. You are ahead of your time and always looking for something new to stimulate your mind and help you get ahead.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5		8	4		
		8					3	
	9	1			3	8		2
4						2		1
				8				
6		9						8
8		6	3			9	7	
	1					5		
		3	2		9			

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	7	3	4	8	9	6	2
3	2	4	6	1	9	5	7	8
9	8	6	7	5	2	4	1	3
7	3	9	5	2	1	8	4	6
4	6	5	8	3	7	2	9	1
2	1	8	9	6	4	7	3	5
6	7	3	4	8	5	1	2	9
5	9	1	2	7	3	6	8	4
8	4	2	1	9	6	3	5	7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAWN MOWER RACING **Solution: 9 letters**

S	S	A	D	K	C	E	Q	U	I	P	M	E	N	T
A	E	M	C	E	Y	S	M	O	T	O	R	O	R	H
F	E	A	A	I	E	L	E	I	I	S	I	A	E	R
E	R	T	S	E	R	P	T	N	T	T	N	O	Z	O
T	A	E	T	O	T	C	S	E	I	S	R	I	I	T
Y	Z	U	R	N	N	P	U	T	M	G	A	E	L	T
C	Z	R	A	S	E	Q	E	I	A	L	N	P	I	L
O	I	P	P	C	N	P	S	N	T	I	E	E	B	E
M	B	A	T	A	M	S	I	N	H	G	L	H	A	S
M	L	I	B	O	I	Z	E	C	R	R	E	D	T	R
U	O	N	C	O	A	V	A	L	I	A	U	A	S	U
N	E	T	N	T	E	M	R	A	L	S	F	L	R	O
I	P	O	I	N	T	S	F	S	L	S	S	A	E	C
T	M	O	D	E	L	S	I	S	S	A	H	C	N	S
Y	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	W	H	E	E	L	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Humanitarian

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAG
There is still hope for nonimm
all alien workers in the CNMI who are appealing to U.S. lawmakers to retain the provision in the federalization bills that would grant nonimmigrant status to long-term alien workers.
In her message, expected to be read during today's prayer vigil at the Americam Memorial Park's Amphitheater, Dorumal urged alien workers to "stand strong" as she vowed to continue supporting them "until the fight is won."
See DOROMAL on Page 4
joins Micronesia SU
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulation

235- NEWS

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Brewers beat Cubs, clinch playoff spot for first time since '82

MILWAUKEE (AP)—CC Sabathia pitched a four-hitter and Ryan Braun hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, leading the Milwaukee Brewers over the Chicago Cubs 3-1 Sunday and into the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

The Brewers, who fired manager Ned Yost with only two weeks left to go, won the National League wild card less than a half-hour later when the New York Mets lost to Florida 4-2. Milwaukee (90-72) and New York (89-73) went into the final day of the regular season tied.

The Brewers will face Philadelphia in the first round of the playoffs. The NL Central champion Cubs will play the Los Angeles Dodgers,

Sabathia (11-2) pitched his NL-leading seventh complete game—those came in just 17 starts after the Brewers got the big lefty in July from Cleveland. The only run he allowed was unearned after an error by first baseman Prince Fielder, and he finished with a 1.65 ERA for the Brewers.

The Brewers couldn't get much going offensively until Braun's towering two-run homer off Bob Howry (7-5) broke a 1-all tie.

AP

Milwaukee Brewers' Tony Gwynn, Angel Salome and CC Sabathia, from right, celebrate after the Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs 3-1 in a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008, in Milwaukee.

Marlins 4, Mets 2

At New York, Scott Schoeneweis and Luis Ayala served up back-to-back homers in the eighth inning that put Florida ahead, and New York missed the playoffs after another September slide and a loss in the final game at Shea Stadium.

It was an eerily similar scenario to last year, when New York lost at home to Florida on the final day of season, ending their playoff hopes.

Pinch-hitter Wes Helms homered off Schoeneweis (2-6) to start the eighth, snapping a 2-all tie. Dan Uggla connected against Ayala

Joe Nelson (3-1) struck out two in a perfect seventh and Lindstrom earned his fifth save.

Phillies 8, Nationals 3

At Philadelphia, Lou Marson and Matt Stairs hit back-to-back homers for the NL East-champion Philadelphia, which rested its regulars in a win over Washington.

Cole Hamels was scheduled to pitch, but took the day off to rest for his Game 1 start in the division series on Wednesday. Manager Charlie Manuel said he was undecided about his Game 2 starter and might wait until Monday to announce one.

Les Walrond (1-1) earned his first major league victory, with the loss going to Odalis Perez (7-12), who left with nausea after 3 2-3 innings.

The Nationals (59-102) finished with the worst record in the majors and said they will not bring back five coaches next year.

Giants 3, Dodgers 1

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum matched his career high with 13 strikeouts to finish with a majors-best 265 in San Francisco's win over the NL West champion Los Angeles.

Los Angeles concluded its division championship season at 84-78 and will face the NL Central champion Chicago Cubs starting Wednesday at Wrigley Field.

Lincecum (18-5), who also struck out 13 on July 26 against Arizona, recorded strikeouts for the first nine outs of the game—the first time that's happened since the Mets' Sid Fernandez did so on July 30, 1986, at the New York Mets, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Hiroki Kuroda, the Dodgers' Game 3 playoff starter, pitched five scoreless innings with two hits and three strikeouts and didn't walk a batter. Park Chan-ho (4-4) took the loss.

Astros 3, Braves 1

At Houston, Brad Ausmus hit a two-run homer in his final game with Houston, and Wandy Rodriguez (9-7) struck out six in seven strong innings before Jose Valverde shut out Atlanta in the ninth to tie a franchise record with his 44th save.

Chipper Jones secured his first NL batting title, walking in his only at-bat. Jones hit a career-high .364 to edge Albert Pujols and become the NL's first switch-hitting batting champion since Terry Pendleton won in his 1991 MVP season for Atlanta.

Mike Hampton (3-4) took the loss for the Braves, who finished 72-90—their worst record since going 65-97 in 1990.

Cardinals 11, Reds 4

At St. Louis, Felipe Lopez drove in three runs and Brad Thompson threw five effective innings, helping St. Louis end the year on a season-best six game winning streak.

Ryan Ludwick had his 37th home run of the season to give the Cardinals a 2-0 lead after one inning and Troy Glaus added his 27th homer in a six-run third against Adam Pettyjohn (0-1).

Thompson (6-3) gave up three runs—two on a homer by Edwin Encarnacion—on four hits. He got the start after right-hander Kyle Lohse was a late scratch.

Diamondbacks 2, Rockies 1

At Phoenix, Randy Johnson pitched a two-hitter in what might have been his final appearance with Arizona. The 45-year-old Johnson, a five-time Cy Young pitching award winner whose contract expires after this season, earned his 295th career win.

The Diamondbacks won it in the ninth when Luis Vizcaino (1-2) issued a bases-loaded walk to Chris Young, who had tied the game with a solo homer in the eighth off Manuel Corpas.

Fueled by several standing ovations, Johnson (11-10) returned to his once-dominant form, allowing only an unearned run and two singles to Troy Tulowitzki. He walked one and struck out nine in his second complete game this season.

Pirates 6, Padres 1

At San Diego, Adam LaRoche and Steve Pearce hit consecutive homers in the fourth inning and Pittsburgh beat San Diego in a matchup of last-place clubs.

The Padres brought up the rear in the West at 63-99, their worst finish since 1993. The Pirates finished last in the NL Central at 67-95, and tied the 1933-48 Phillies' major league record of 16 consecutive losing seasons—the longest losing run in any of the four major pro sports leagues.

Tyler Yates (6-3) got the win after striking out the side in the eighth. Wade LeBlanc (1-3) took the loss.

Twins 6, Royals 0

At Minneapolis, Scott Baker scattered four singles over seven shutout innings, pitching the Twins past the Kansas City Royals to preserve Minnesota's half-game lead in the American League Central.

The White Sox snapped their five-game losing streak by beating Cleveland 5-1, pushing the season into an extra day.

On Monday, Detroit visits Chicago for a makeup game. If the White Sox (87-74) win, they'll host the Twins on Tuesday in a one-game playoff to determine the division title and the first-round opponent for the Tampa Bay Rays.

Delmon Young's two-run single and Joe Mauer's two-run triple gave Baker (11-4) some extra insurance, and relievers Jose Mijares and Joe Nathan finished the final two innings to give Minnesota an 88-74 record—far exceeding almost every forecast.

White Sox 5, Indians 1

At Chicago, Mark Buehrle won on three days' rest, Paul Konerko hit his fourth homer in three games and Jermaine Dye had a two-run single to lead Chicago past Cleveland.

Buehrle (15-12), coming off a 121-pitch outing, made his third start on short rest this season and his second in September. He allowed one run and nine hits in seven innings, struck out six and walked one, throwing 111 pitches.

Chicago backed him with four double plays, and Indians third baseman Jamey Carroll made a key error that allowed the go-ahead run to score in a three-run second inning.

Jhonny Peralta's second-inning homer put Cleveland ahead. But Bryan Bullington (0-2), starting because 22-game winner Cliff Lee was scratched with a stiff neck, couldn't hold it.

Konerko's second-inning homer tied it, and Chicago loaded the bases when Ken Griffey Jr. doubled, Alexei Ramirez walked and A.J. Pierzynski singled.

Yankees 6, Red Sox 2, 1st game
Red Sox 4, Yankees 3, 10 innings, 2nd game

At Boston, Mike Mussina became the oldest pitcher to win 20 games in a season for the first time, reaching the milestone in the opener of a day-night doubleheader between New York and Boston.

The playoff-bound Red Sox won the second game on Jonathan Van Every's bases-loaded single with two outs in the 10th off Jose Veras (5-3). Devern Hansack (1-0) pitched the 10th for the win as Boston prevented the Yankees (89-73) from reaching 90 wins for the seventh straight season.

The 39-year-old Mussina (20-9), finishing his 18th major league season, allowed three hits in six shutout innings. Previously, the oldest first-time 20-game winner was Jamie Moyer, who was 38 when he went 20-6 for Seattle in 2001.

Mussina won his final three starts, allowing one run over 16 innings. His previous high for wins came in 1995 and 1996, when he won 19 games each year for Baltimore.

Xavier Nady hit a three-run homer in the fifth off Daisuke Matsuzaka (18-3), who lost for the first time in eight decisions since July 28.

New York finished five games back of the wild-card Red Sox and missed the postseason for the first time since 1993.

Angels 7, Rangers 0

At Anaheim, California, the Angels posted their team-record 100th win, with Joe Saunders pitching six sharp innings and Mike Napoli homering in their final postseason tuneup.

The Angels (100-62) take baseball's best record into the first round of the playoffs against the World Series champion Boston Red Sox beginning Wednesday in Anaheim.

The Angels became the first major league team since the 2005 St. Louis Cardinals to reach 100 wins, and the first AL team to do so since the 2004 New York Yankees.

Saunders (17-7) tuned up for the playoffs by allowing two hits, striking out a career-high nine and walking none. The All-Star lefty improved to 3-0 in his last four starts.

Rays 8, Tigers 7, 11 innings

At Detroit, Ben Zobrist hit a go-ahead single in a four-run eighth and had a solo homer in the 11th, lifting the playoff-bound Tampa Bay to a win over Detroit.

Rays manager Joe Maddon said he would start right-hander James Shields, who started and threw only an inning Sunday, or lefty Scott Kazmir in the first two games of the ALDS, but he would not say who would be on the mound for Game 1.

Edwin Jackson (14-11) gave up two runs and four hits over two innings. Jason Hammell had his seconds save in as many opportunities.

Blue Jays 10, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Vernon Wells went 4-for-4, homered twice and had five RBIs as Toronto trounced Baltimore.

Jesse Litsch (13-9) gave up one run and three hits in seven innings. The right-hander went 4-1 in September and finished with a solid 3.58 ERA.

Returning to the mound after missing nearly a month with a shoulder injury, Baltimore starter Jeremy Guthrie (10-12) gave up three runs and six hits in four innings. He opened the season with a loss to Tampa Bay and finished it with a typical defeat—Baltimore scored a total of 21 runs in his 12 losses.

Mariners 4, Athletics 3

At Seattle, Ichiro Suzuki had two hits and scored the decisive run for Seattle over Oakland.

The reloaded Mariners expected to win the AL West this season, or at least make the playoffs for the first time since 2001. Instead, they fired their manager and general manager, became the first team with a $100 million payroll to lose 100 games and endured their worst season (61-101) since losing 102 games in 1983.

R.A. Dickey (5-8) picked up the win. Josh Outman (1-2) took the loss.

Villegas makes it 2 in a row at Tour Championship

ATLANTA (AP)—A two-putt par to win the Tour Championship in a playoff was worth an extra $1.5 million to Camilo Villegas. A 7-iron to a scary pin on the 71st hole, under more pressure than he has ever faced? That was invaluable.

Villegas overcame a five-shot deficit with six birdies on his final 11 holes of regulation—the last one after going at a dangerous flag on the 17th—and won the Tour Championship on the first extra hole against Sergio Garcia for his second straight victory.

"Winning is awesome," Villegas said after closing with a 4-under 66.

The 26-year-old Colombian, who had gone 85 starts on the PGA Tour without winning, picked up his second in a row with a finish that brought the gallery to life on a sunny afternoon at East Lake.

In a four-man race coming to the final holes, Villegas caught Garcia with a 7-iron from 184 yards to 12 feet on the 17th, then twice hit beautiful lag putts from 45 feet for par on the 233-yard 18th—once in regulation to finish at 7-under 273, then in the playoff to win.

"Probably the shot of the tournament there," Villegas said. "There's a great chance the ball is going to plug if it comes up short in that bunker, and a yard long and it's in the water. So it's just hit and beg. It happened to be just fine."

Anthony Kim and Phil Mickelson each shot 69, and each had a chance to join the playoff. Kim, playing in the second-to-last group with Villegas, missed from 30 feet. In the final group, Mickelson missed his birdie putt from 20 feet.

Garcia, who blew a 54-hole lead of at least three shots for the third straight time, also had a 20-foot birdie putt to win in regulation. He didn't give himself much of a chance in the playoff when his 4-iron came up 30 yards short and to the right. His flop shot over a bunker stayed in the collar of the green, and a chip to extend the playoff came up well short.

"I doubted myself too much early on, and it cost me," said Garcia, who squandered a six-shot lead in 2005 at the Wachovia Championship and a three-shot lead last year in the British Open at Carnoustie.

The consolation prize might be the Vardon Trophy for lowest adjusted scoring average. Garcia came into the Tour Championship trailing Mickelson by one-hundredth of a point, and wound up at 69.40. Mickelson finished at 69.42.

Tiger Woods, who had season-ending knee surgery after winning the U.S. Open, did not play the required 60 rounds to be eligible for the award, which will not be official until the tour's Fall Series ends the first week of November.

"Fun way to finish the year, have it come down to the last shot," Mickelson said.

What was supposed to be the highlight of the Tour Championship—the FedEx Cup—turned into an afterthought. Singh effectively wrapped up the $10 million prize two weeks ago in St. Louis, so all he had to do was finish 72 holes at East Lake and sign for the correct score to win the FedEx Cup.

"I made one birdie and one bogey. It was easy not to make a mistake," he said.

Singh closed with a 70 and tied for 22nd in the 30-man field, but none of that mattered. He won the first two playoff events to take the drama out of the FedEx Cup for the second straight year.

Villegas missed the cut at The Barclays in the first round of the playoffs, which ultimately was the difference. He wound up 551 points behind in the standings, but that was only bookkeeping.

While the FedEx Cup suffered another dull finish, the Tour Championship was anything but that. Over the back nine, it turned out to be one of the best regular PGA Tour events of the year.

Mickelson, Garcia, Kim and Villegas—four of the hottest commodities on a tour without Woods—had at least a share of the lead along the back nine at East Lake. They were in the final two groups. At least one player made birdie or bogey on every hole except the 18th, which yielded only one birdie in the final round.

Villegas might have been the one player no one expected to be there.

He started the final round five shots out of the lead, and despite a pair of birdies, gave it all back and more with a tee shot into the water on the par-3 sixth, and a bogey on the next hole. That's when he got his first pep talk from caddie Gary Matthews.

"My caddie looked at me straight in the eyes and he goes, 'You ain't going to give up on me. We can still do it.' He was probably the only one believing that at that point," Villegas said.

AP

Camiilo Villegas, of Colombia, holds the trophy after winning the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008.

Favre throws career-high 6 TDs as Jets beat Cardinals

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP)—Brett Favre threw a career-high and Jets-record six touchdown passes, three to Laveranues Coles, and New York took advantage of mistakes by Arizona in a big second quarter of a 56-35 victory Sunday.

Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin was carted off the field after a scary helmet-to-helmet collision with Eric Smith in the end zone with 27 seconds remaining. Boldin was moving all his extremities on the field and was talking to his teammates coming off the field and going into the locker room. He was being taken to a hospital for precautionary reasons.

New York's defense forced three fumbles and two interceptions in the first half and the Jets (2-2) set a franchise record by scoring 34 points in the second quarter.

Favre, showing no signs of a left ankle injury that hobbled him during the week, finished 24-for-34 for 289 yards. Coles had eight catches for 105 yards and Jerricho Cotchery had two touchdown catches as the Jets scored the second-most points in franchise history.

Redskins 26, Cowboys 24

At Irving, Texas, Jason Campbell threw two touchdown passes and Clinton Portis ran for 121 yards to knock the Cowboys from the ranks of the unbeaten.

Washington (3-1) won for only the second time in its last 13 visits to Texas Stadium. With Dallas moving to a different suburb next season, this was the Redskins' last visit to a place that rarely treated them well. Thus, unless Washington returns for a playoff game, new coach Jim Zorn will have the unique distinction of being undefeated here.

Bills 31, Rams 14

At St. Louis, Jabari Greer's 33-yard interception return on the first play of the fourth quarter was the go-ahead score in an 18-point fourth-quarter salvo.

The Bills' first defensive score of the year—also Greer's first career touchdown—came off an overthrown pass on second-and-12. It signaled an end to the Rams' fun and games while handing St. Louis (0-4) its 17th loss in the last 20 games.

Chiefs 33, Broncos 19

At Kansas City, Missouri, Larry Johnson ran for 198 yards and two touchdowns and the Chiefs took advantage of four Denver turnovers. It was the first win for Kansas City since Oct. 21, 2007, a club-record 12 straight losses that had angry fans calling for the dismissal of everyone from the general manager to the quarterbacks coach.

Nick Novak kicked three field goals for the Chiefs (1-3), who did not seem to be out of danger until Tony Gonzalez snared a 10-yard touchdown pass with 12:40 to go.

Chargers 28, Raiders 18

At Oakland, California, another blown fourth-quarter lead for Oakland led to yet another San Diego win over the Raiders and the possible end of coach Lane Kiffin's tenure.

Darren Sproles' long kickoff return set up Nate Kaeding's go-ahead 47-yard field goal with 1:51 to play and LaDainian Tomlinson sealed the Chargers' 10th straight win over their AFC West rivals with a 41-yard TD run.

Titans 30, Vikings 17

At Nashville, Tennessee, rookie Chris Johnson scored two touchdowns and the defense forced four turnovers that the Titans turned into 21 points. The Titans improved to 4-0 for the first time in franchise history.

Not even dating back to their AFL start in Houston as the Oilers had this team started a season so well. In their 10th season as the relocated Titans, they also have won an NFL-best seven straight regular-season games and had the crowd chanting "4-and-0" as the final seconds ticked off.

Buccaneers 30, Packers 21

At Tampa, Florida, Derrick Brooks had one of three interceptions of Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers and also forced a fumble that Jermaine Phillips returned 38 yards for a touchdown.

Rodgers threw two touchdowns to Greg Jennings, who had six receptions for 109 yards, but was sacked three times and left for one series with a shoulder injury midway through the fourth quarter.

Saints 31, 49ers 17

At New Orleans, San Francisco's shaky run defense had trouble stopping Deuce McAllister's power running. The Saints' all-time rusher is now playing on two reconstructed knees. It hardly looked that way when he bowled over tacklers for first downs, moved the pile or dived over it for his first touchdown of the season.

He carried 20 times for 73 yards and had a 10-yard reception to convert a third down. McAllister gave the Saints (2-2) the credible power running threat they needed to open up deep throws for Drew Brees.

Panthers 24, Falcons 9

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Steve Smith broke two tackles and raced 56 yards for a touchdown, then did perhaps his most important work. Nearly two months after he broke teammate Ken Lucas' nose with a sucker punch in training camp, Smith retrieved the ball and handed it to Lucas on the sideline.

Smith's first touchdown following his two-game suspension was part of a dominating day. Jake Delhomme was mistake-free, Smith and Muhsin Muhammad combined for 243 yards receiving and two scores, and Carolina (3-1) shut down the league's top rushing unit.

Jaguars 30, Texans 27, OT

At Jacksonville, Florida, Josh Scobee won a second straight game for the Jaguars, with plenty of help from David Garrard again. Scobee's 37-yard field goal in overtime won it. Scobee hit a 51-yarder with 4 seconds remaining last week to beat Indianapolis 23-21.

Garrard put Jacksonville in position for the winner against the Colts and did the same a week later. He completed a 24-yard pass to Matt Jones on third down to get to the Houston 41, then found Greg Jones in the flat for 22 more yards.

Browns 20, Bengals 12

At Cincinnati, embattled quarterback Derek Anderson did just enough—and it wasn't much—to rally Cleveland over a winless Cincinnati team missing its starting quarterback.

Anderson threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Braylon Edwards that put the Browns (1-3) ahead to stay in the fourth quarter, his best play on an afternoon that had few of them. Even that moment came with an asterisk: A Bengals penalty wiped out a potential interception on the drive.

Voyagers vs Shark Attack in team 8-ball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

MARK RABAGO
Rolly Villanueva, seen here in a file photo, and the rest of his PTI Voyagers teammates will meet Coral Reef Shark Attack in tonight's resumption of the ongoing 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

PTI Voyagers will meet Coral Reef Shark Attack, while Primos Home Boys will visit the Krystal Perfect Spotters and D'Pirates Huwa will take on the Coral Reef Barracuda in tonight's resumption of the ongoing 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

The Voyagers, which sport an 18-2 win-loss record, will try to keep its winning run and maintain the lead in the Agingan Division.

The Voyagers, composed of Luis Fajardo, Roman Rodriguez, Jean Cadag, Jojo Talibong, and Rolly Villanueva, are coming off a 4-0 win over SaipanCell Hustlers last Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Two other games will be showcased in the same division when Islander Rent A Car will visit USSP Wat-Ever, while Godfather's Rock Steady will host SaipanCell Hustlers.

Both Islander and the Hustlers are tied with 16-8, while Wat-Ever and Rock Steady have 7-13 and 7-17 marks, respectively.

Coral Reef Shark Attack languishes in the bottom of the six-team filed division with identical 4-20 marks.

In the Obyan Division, the Primos Home Boys and the Coral Reef Barracuda will try to break the tie on top when they meet their respective opponents.

Both teams are having a 15-9 win-loss record.

The Home Boys won their last game over Fotten Palau, 3-1. The team is composed of Junacho Mendoza, Mario Diola, Nolan Cultura, Franz de Luna, and Jeorge Lizardo.

On the other hand, D'Pirates will try to regain their composure following their 0-4 loss to the Perfect Spotters in their previous match.

The D'Pirates are Ray Takai, Pat Cepeda, Ed Suzuki, Gerald DL Guerrero, and Ray Basa.

The other match-up will be between the VFW Warriors and USSP Fotten Huwa.

The Perfect Spotters are in solo third with 14-10, Fotten Palau in fourth with 11-13, Barracuda with 9-15, and Warriors with 8-16.

CNMI

From Page 28

of steam in the fourth, making only 10 markers, its lowest in the game.

CNMI will close out its pool play assignment against New Caledonia today.

Sunday's Game

Guam 102 – Andrea 25, Jose 14, Roysten 14, Afaisen 12, Cardines 11, Carter 8, Sablan 8, Moser 5, Garduque 5.

CNMI 61 – Babauta 11, Rabauliman 11, Cruz 10, Moses 10, Tarkog 6, Tumaquip 6, Camacho 2, White 2, Castro 2, Borja 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-15, 53-28, 76-51, 102-61.

Yesterday's Game

CNMI 93 – Cruz 29, Tarkong 18, Rabauliman 15, Borja 10, Babauta 9, Moses 6, Tumaquip 4, White 2.

PNG 84 – Muri 29, Loko 20, Vaieke 14, Jahare 7, Tade 6, Ipase 4, Moha 2, Likius 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-22, 43-39, 72-61, 93-84.

ELI

From Page 28

each. Dion Diaz scored a free throw.

Alizee Lefranc paced Tahiti with 32 points, while Luci Matohi contributed 25 markers.

Tahiti was ahead by 17 points after the first period, 25-8, and increased the lead to 37 at halftime, 51-14.

The CNMI cagebelles showed their best offensive form in the third period, firing 13 markers, but Tahiti was still ahead by a big margin, 83-27.

The CNMI bets had their lowest output in the fourth, making only three points.

The CNMI cagebelles were facing Fiji in their second game in Pool A at the University of Guam Fieldhouse at press time. They will play their last game in Pool A today against defending champion Australia.

SIXERS

From Page 28

games and are likely to become the last seeded team in the playoffs.

Only the Top 8 teams in the nine-squad field will advance to the single-elimination playoffs.

The Saints are currently in eighth place and will play the Kontenders in their last game next week.

The Suns are up one notch from the Saints in the team standings, after their win against the Rollers II Thursday night.

The Suns are in seventh place, holding a 2-4 record. Their last two games will be against the G-Stars and the Rollers I.

Jimmy Brel paced the Suns' five-point win over the Rollers II hitting 12 markers.

The Rollers II finished the league without a win in eight games and was the first team to be eliminated in the 18-and-under caging.

It had a chance to enter the win column before bowing out of competition after leading by six in the first half, 20-14. But the Suns outscored the Rollers II in the second half, 32-19, to steal the win.

Thursday's Game

Suns 44 – Brel 12, M. Lisua 6, Salas 6, Fleming 4, Yamada 4, Maratita 4, Calvo 4, R. Lisua 2.

Rollers II 39 – Mabini 17, Deleon Guerero 6, Norita 4, Babauta 4, M. Manglona 2, E. Manglona 2, Brennan 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-20, 44-39.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Gabriel White.

Friday's Game

Sixers 78 – Ada 29, E. Duenas 23, Benavente 14, Pepito 6, M. Duenas 4, Feria 2,

Saints 52 – Tudela 22, Reyes 20, Iglecias 4, Lizama 4, Stoll 2.

Scoring by halves: 45-21, 78-52.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Connie Camacho.

LAAYUG

From Page 28

"My strategy was to bring him down to the mat because I am not good in a standing fight," said Laayug, who added that he is ready for a rematch.

In one of the earlier fights of the night, Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez of Trench Tech ousted first-timer Sefich Lorenzo by tap out in the first round to maintain a perfect record in four appearances.

Of the 17 total fights, Andrew Sablan scored the biggest upset after he defeated Martin "Tom Cat" Castro of Trench Trench.

Sablan, a last-minute replacement for Leon Fasi, decked the heftier 175-lb. Castro and prevailed via TKO in the first minute of the first round.

Before the bout, announcer L.J. Castro described it as a "David vs. Goliath" match.

James "Asu" Castro posted the quickest win of the event by knocking out Jamie Hermosila a mere 11 seconds into their 140-lb. fight.

Castro hit Hermosila with a straight hook to the jaw that knocked him down kissing the mat at his own corner and he was rendered unconscious for a few minutes.

He was later revived by alert medical staff.

Trench Tech's Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez drew first blood as he debuted with a first round tap out victory over Reagan Mality, who absorbed his second loss in two bouts.

Another first-timer Jerome Fujihira defeated Carl Jesse Takai by unanimous decision.

Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez extended his record to 2-0 by beating Jason "Murdok" Kaipat in the second round via tap out.

T.J. "Ying Yang" Castro also won his second career fight by split decision against first-timer Joe Cabrera.

Angel Santos finally won a bout after two matches by defeating first-timer Jason "Gangster Farmer" Teregoyo by tap out in the second round.

Jess Santos also nailed his first win via second round tap out of first-timer Eric "Rude Boy" Torres.

In the 180-lb. weight division, Joe Ngiraibuch remained undefeated in two career fights after beating Sanderson Sebuu by tap out in the first round.

Styx Castro defeated fellow newcomer Joe Esteves by TKO in the second round of their 175-lb. match-up.

Fal Arriola defeated Rayson Ray by split decision. The judges scored the match 28-29, 30-20, and 29-28.

Newcomer Mark "The Dark" Nuque defeated Derrick Chen by TKO 55 seconds in the second round, while Ryan "Trouble" Ngirbabul prevailed via TKO over Sal Limes in 1:59 of the first round.

Jordan Ago defeated Filipino fighter Raymond C. De Luna by tap out with 1:37 in the second round, while Shawn Ogo won via unanimous decision over Ben Taisacan with a score of 30-27.

Before the start of the main event, fight promoter and Trench Tech Inc. president Justis "Cuki" Alvarez recognized Kelvin Fitial's feat in the international scene after his gold medal performance in the Marianas Cup held last month in Guam.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Tampa Bay	97	65	.599	–
y-Boston	95	67	.586	2
New York	89	73	.549	8
Toronto	86	76	.531	11
Baltimore	68	93	.422	28 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	88	74	.543	–
Chicago	87	74	.540	1/2
Cleveland	81	81	.500	7
Kansas City	75	87	.463	13
Detroit	74	87	.460	13 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	100	62	.617	–
Texas	79	83	.488	21
Oakland	75	86	.466	24 1/2
Seattle	61	101	.377	39

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	92	70	.568	–
New York	89	73	.549	3
Florida	84	77	.522	7 1/2
Atlanta	72	90	.444	20
Washington	59	102	.366	32 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	97	64	.602	–
y-Milwaukee	90	72	.556	7 1/2
Houston	86	75	.534	11
St. Louis	86	76	.531	11 1/2
Cincinnati	74	88	.457	23 1/2
Pittsburgh	67	95	.414	30 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	84	78	.519	–
Arizona	82	80	.506	2
Colorado	74	88	.457	10
San Francisco	72	90	.444	12
San Diego	63	99	.389	21

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 8, Detroit 7, 11 innings
N.Y. Yankees 6, Boston 2, 1st game
Toronto 10, Baltimore 1
Boston 4, N.Y. Yankees 3, 10 innings, 2nd game
Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 1
Minnesota 6, Kansas City 0
L.A. Angels 7, Texas 0
Seattle 4, Oakland 3
Florida 4, N.Y. Mets 2
Philadelphia 8, Washington 3
Houston 3, Atlanta 1
Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 1
St. Louis 11, Cincinnati 4
Pittsburgh 6, San Diego 1
San Francisco 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
Arizona 2, Colorado 1

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	0	0	1.000	109	63
New England	2	1	0	.667	49	58
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	115	116
Miami	1	2	0	.333	62	64

South

Tennessee	4	0	0	1.000	102	46
Jacksonville	2	2	0	.500	79	85
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	52	67
Houston	0	3	0	.000	56	99

North

Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	45	20
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	54	38
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250	46	78
Cincinnati	0	4	0	.000	52	87

West

Denver	3	1	0	.750	133	117
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	138	112
Oakland	1	3	0	.250	78	101
Kansas City	1	3	0	.250	65	97

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000	83	43
Washington	3	1	0	.750	86	81
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	120	89
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	110	74

South

Carolina	3	1	0	.750	80	70
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	101	78
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	111	100
Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	90	83

North

Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	109	101
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	94	80
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	71	82
Detroit	0	3	0	.000	59	113

West

Arizona	2	2	0	.500	106	103
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	94	97
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	77	80
St. Louis	0	4	0	.000	43	147

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Jets 56, Arizona 35
Tennessee 30, Minnesota 17
Kansas City 33, Denver 19
New Orleans 31, San Francisco 17
Carolina 24, Atlanta 9
Cleveland 20, Cincinnati 12
Tampa Bay 30, Green Bay 21
Jacksonville 30, Houston 27, OT
Buffalo 31, St. Louis 14
San Diego 28, Oakland 18
Washington 26, Dallas 24
Chicago 24, Philadelphia 20

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)–Scores Saturday after the fourth round of the US$7 million Tour Championship at the 7,304-yard, par-70 East Lake Golf Club:

FINAL ROUND

Camilo Villegas	72-66-69-66	273
Sergio Garcia	70-65-67-71	273
Phil Mickelson	68-68-69-69	274
Anthony Kim	64-69-72-69	274
Ben Curtis	71-69-68-70	278
Ernie Els	68-73-70-69	280
Mike Weir	70-69-71-70	280
Jim Furyk	72-70-69-69	280
K.J. Choi	69-70-70-72	281
Billy Mayfair	72-71-69-70	282
Trevor Immelman	68-73-71-70	282
Stuart Appleby	72-71-70-69	282
Dudley Hart	73-69-71-69	282
Justin Leonard	73-69-73-67	282
Kevin Sutherland	71-71-69-72	283
Robert Allenby	75-66-67-76	284
D.J. Trahan	71-72-71-72	286
Ryuji Imada	75-72-71-68	286
Ken Duke	77-69-69-71	286
Hunter Mahan	74-75-68-69	286
Carl Pettersson	76-72-71-68	287
Chad Campbell	72-73-75-69	289
Vijay Singh	73-74-72-70	289
Stewart Cink	75-73-73-69	290
Kenny Perry	76-75-67-72	290
Steve Stricker	74-74-70-72	290
Andres Romero	73-68-78-72	291
Briny Baird	74-71-70-76	291
Tim Clark	78-74-71-69	292
Bubba Watson	71-74-74-76	295

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	7	0
San Antonio Sixers	5	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	4	1
G-Stars	3	2
Rollers I	2	2
Kontenders	2	4
Suns	2	4
C.K. Saints	1	5
Rollers II	0	8

PTI Inaugural Inter-Govt/Business League

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pennant champion Northern Marianas College poses with their hardware.

Members and supporters of Bank of Guam pose with the team's Sportsmanship Award.

Far left, Division of Sports and Recreation staff Joey Dela Cruz, right, and Derron Flores, center, present a plaque of appreciation to Kathryn Barry, regional marketing manager for PTI.

Left, Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply's Edgar Pangelinan, second left, holds his scoring champion trophy.

Right, Bank of Guam Express' James Villacrusis with his regular season MVP trophy.

Far right, Autonomous' Ponce Rasa, left, Richard Brostrom, center, and Mitch Aaron with their runner-up trophy.

Autonomous' Ponce Rasa pulls up for a shot against PTI's Edsel Mendoza.

Autonomous' Ed Diaz, loses the ball to the baseline, as he was pressured by the defense of PTI's Edsel Mendoza.

Autonomous' Tim Wesley drives to the basket during their title game against PTI in the 2008 PTI Inaugural Inter-government/Business League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Voyagers vs Shark Attack in team 8-ball

PTI Voyagers will meet Coral Reef Shark Attack, while Primos Home Boys will visit the Krystal Perfect Spotters and D'Pirates Huwa will take on the Coral Reef Barracuda in tonight's 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brewers beat Cubs, clinch playoff spot for first time since '82

CC Sabathia pitched a four-hitter and Ryan Braun hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, leading the Milwaukee Brewers over the Chicago Cubs 3-1 Sunday. **24**

Jr. Nationals edge Papua New Guinea

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's Junior Nationals recorded their first win in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament after outlasting Papua New Guinea, 93-84, yesterday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao.

Jericho Cruz top-scored for the Junior Nationals, exploding for 29 points. Cruz was held to 10 markers in the CNMI's debut lost to Guam Sunday night, but was unstoppable against PNG. He also posted three rebounds, six assist, and six steals for an all-around game.

But the biggest contribution came from Jayvan Tarkong and Anthony Borja, who both showed significant improvement in their second game after lackluster debuts against Guam.

Tarkong had only six markers against Guam, but nailed 18 against PNG, while the 6'3" Borja, who made only one charity in their first match, chipped in 10 and had nine rebounds yesterday.

Marvin Rabauliman continued to play a good game for the Junior Nationals, hitting 15 markers for the team's balanced offense.

The Junior Nationals lost their debut against host Guam Sunday night, 102-61, despite having four players scoring in double figures.

Bill Babauta and Rabauliman led the Junior Nationals with 11 points apiece. Babauta is studying in UOG and he and fellow UOG student Borja only joined the Junior Nationals' training Saturday morning.

The two other double figure scorers for the CNMI cagers were Cruz and Allen Moses, who chipped in 10 points apiece.

Aguon's wards kept Guam within striking distance in the first period, as the host led by only seven after 10 minutes of play, 22-15.

But a 31-13 scoring in the second half helped Guam break the game wide open, taking a 53-28 halftime lead.

The CNMI cagers matched Guam's output in the third, 23-23, before the hosts stepped on the gas anew in the fourth, hitting 26 points. CNMI ran out

See CNMI on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
The CNMI Junior Nationals' Jericho Cruz is seen in this file photo driving against FMI's Banjo Basila in last season's Bud Cup. Cruz scored 29 points in the Junior Nationals' 93-84 victory against Papua New Guinea yesterday in the FIBA youth caging in Guam.

Eli hands coaching post to Tumaquip

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Elias Rangamar did not join the CNMI Women's Junior Nationals in Guam for the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament, instead allowing his deputy Jose Tumaquip to call the shots for the Commonwealth cagebelles' debut Sunday.

Rangamar said he could not join the team due to work and other commitments, but he believes the CNMI cagebelles are in good hands.

"Jose has been my assistant coach the past two years. He knows how to run our plays and the girls are comfortable with him," Rangamar said.

"Besides, it's about time that a young coach like him experience what it is like to coach a team in a tough tournament like the FIBA Oceania youth event," he added.

Tumaquip lost his coaching debut in the FIBA caging, as the CNMI cagebelles bowed to Tahiti, 30-101.

The game maybe a blowout, but Rangamar said he was pleased on how the CNMI cagebelles executed their trapping defense against the much taller and much experienced Tahiti players.

"Jose called me and said Tahiti gave up against our girls' trapping defense so Tahiti sort of changed its offensive formation. We have a quick team so Jose decided to go for a press. The defense worked in the fourth quarter, as Tahiti's offense slowed down a bit," Rangamar said.

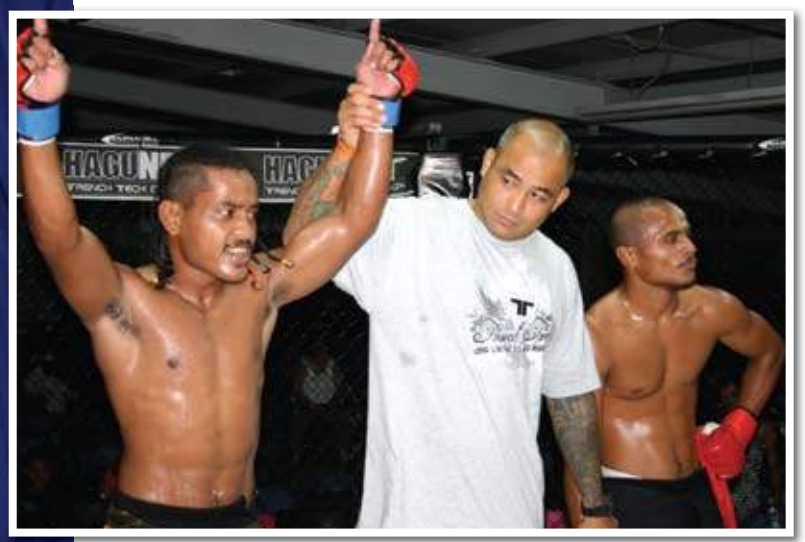
"Coach Jose and I are not concerned on how many our girls will score. We're more focused on how our girls will execute our play and show and skills we thought them during the training," Rangamar said.

The CNMI Women's Junior Nationals had eight players scoring against Tahiti with Nicole Lebria leading the way with 10 points.

Lia Rangamar added eight, Noelle Calvo chipped in five, and Yvonne Bennett, Nikita Hofschneider, and Jacque Wonenberg had two markers

See ELI on Page 26

Laayug shows 'No Luv' for Rangamar in ROP V



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Referee Stephen Roberto raises the arm of Chris "No Luv' Laayug, winner by unanimous decision over Derrick "Pinchi" Rangamar in the main event of Rites of Passage V: Raging Warriors last Saturday night at the Trench Tech Gym.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Chris "No Luv" Laayug defeated Derrick "Pinchi" Rangamar by unanimous decision in the main event of the Rites of Passage V: Raging Warriors last Saturday night at the Trench Tech Gym.

The judges scored it 30-27 for Laayug, who improved his record to three wins and one loss.

The 17-year-old Laayug of Trench Tech said he won because of his fighting style by grappling the 26-year-old Rangamar of Marianas Elite in their three-round bout in the 140-lb. weight class. It was Rangamar's third defeat in five career fights.

See LAAYUG on Page 26

Sixers still unbeaten, Suns notch second win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Antonio Sixers kept their bid for a sweep alive after thwarting the Chalan Kanoa Saints, 78-52, while the Suns topped the Rollers II, 44-39, in last week's games in the the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win improved the Sixers' record to 5-0. Victories over the Southern Sonics and the CNMI Junior Nationals will give San Antonio a sweep of the regular season and the pennant title.

The Sonics are also gunning for a sweep and will face the Sixers this Thursday. The Sixers were supposed to duel the CNMI Junior Nationals last Friday, but the game was rescheduled as the latter left for Guam to compete in the ongoing 7th FIBA Oceana Youth Tournament.

With the Sixers-Junior Nationals' tiff called off, organizers decided to play the make-up game between the Sixers and the Saints, which was originally set for Aug. 27, but was canceled due to a power outage.

Friday night, the Sixers' Joe Ada and Ernest Duenas were simply too much to handle for the Saints' defense—or the lack of it.

Ada exploded for 29 points, while Duenas chipped in 23.

Ada and Duenas alternately burned the hoops and gave the Sixers a commanding 45-21 halftime lead en route to San Antonio's fifth win in as many games.

The Saints absorbed their fifth loss in six

See SIXERS on Page 26